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From the Editor's Desk

There have been rumours from some mischievous quarters that the *Australian Orchid Review* is ceasing publication. Nothing could be further from the truth! Sadly, both Ron Hoolahan, the principle of the company Dalton House that owned the magazine, and Cathy Mansergh (who looked after subscriptions and most of the administrative aspects of the publication) passed away in early 2009. The magazine continues to be owned and administered by this company and its trustees. It is essentially "business as usual". The year 2010 starts the 75th Anniversary of the magazine, and we hope it will still be going strong in at least another 75 years time. We have many improvements and new initiatives planned! Including a website, and the ability to order subscriptions and back issues online through a secure site. This will be a further avenue which will help the promotion of orchids in Australia, the various orchid groups and specialist orchid nurseries that support the magazine.

Also this year, the magazine has changed printers (Blue Star), typesetters, and distributors. This has been done over the past six months (with the past three printed issues). The advertising is now primarily facilitated by Caitlin Hoolahan (Ron's daughter), who also looks after subscriptions, the mail-order bookstore and much of the current administration. We are very grateful to both Mark Husk and Barry Badger for the exceptional work and support they gave for the magazine over many, many years as employees of Geon Group and before then Graphic World.

It is with regret that I announce that Rob & Noe Smith have resigned their position as joint editors of "Cymbidiums Australia" with this issue. They have proved their 110% commitment to the Australian Cymbidium Society, but felt a touch frustrated with the lack of tangible support, leaving them to provide much of the editorial. I personally greatly appreciate their support and what they have done for promoting cymbidiums in general (especially Australian-bred cymbidiums), the various shows they commentated on and the enormous amount of writing they have done for the *AOR*. I was extremely pleased with the job they have done over the past eight years, and they leave with their heads held high. Their decision was based largely on "the ongoing lack of participation and support from the state clubs and their frequent changes of direction regarding their ongoing commitment to the *AOR* and an included cymbidium section".

The *AOR*, and myself personally as Editor, are fully committed to a strong *Cymbidium* presence in the magazine. It is a great vehicle to promote the clubs, shows, nurseries and cymbidiums both nationally and on a global scale. I have no intention whatsoever of abolishing it.

All items for the "Cymbidiums Australia" should now be sent direct to me to ensure that Cymbidiums Clubs and Societies are still able to actively promote their hobby. In this age of modern technology, email makes it so much faster and easier to communicate. So don't leave it for "someone else" to do! By working together, it will be a guaranteed win/win situation – for the Australian orchid scene on all levels. Support the bi-monthly magazine that constantly delivers arguably the best cymbidium coverage in the world, as without this vehicle – I am sure the Australian Cymbidium clubs and nurseries would suffer.

On behalf of the editorial and production staff of the *AOR* we wish all our readers, subscribers, advertisers and their extended families a safe and enjoyable festive season and best wishes for 2010. ■

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

OUR COVER

Calanthe brevicornu is one of numerous species from this terrestrial genus found in China, this example photographed in Danyun Gorge by Gary Backhouse. Read more about some of the other ground orchids of China in this issue.

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Amitostigma monanthum
Wanglang

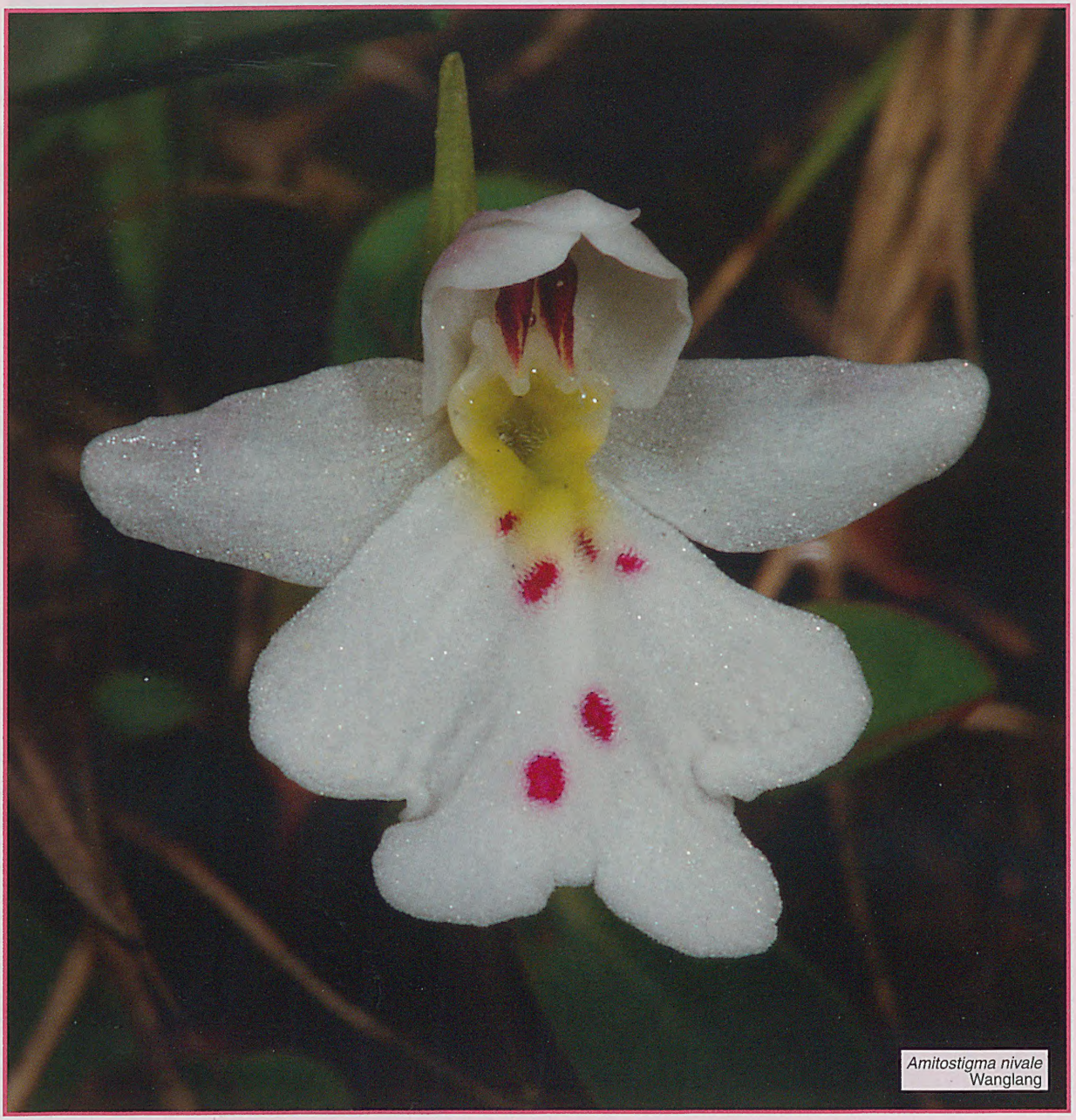
Summer-flowering Orchids of China

Text and photos by Gary Backhouse

In the December 2007 edition of the *Australian Orchid Review* I presented an article on the lady-slipper orchids of the genus *Cypripedium* I saw on a trip to Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces in China during May 2007. This article presents some of the other terrestrial orchids seen during that trip.

The trip commenced in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. From there, our group travelled for two days to the Mekong River valley west of Lanping, to see the fabulous *Paphiopedilum armeniacum* in flower. This species is heavily collected for the nursery trade, and is becoming quite rare in the area. The plants were growing on a steep, inaccessible cliff, so unfortunately I couldn't get close enough for a good photograph, but they did look spectacular through binoculars.

From Lanping our group travelled to Lijiang, with several roadsides stops looking for orchids. Most of the *Pleione* species had finished flowering by the time



Amitostigma nivale Wanglang

I arrived in China, although a few plants of *Pleione bulbocodioides* were still in flower in pine forest at about 2,000 m altitude in Yunnan. This is a pretty species with bright pink flowers and a colourful, strongly marked lip. Growing alongside it was a larger, paler-flowered *Pleione* of indeterminate identity; guesses advanced included *P. yunnanense* and *Pleione* X*barbarae*, a natural hybrid between *P. bulbocodioides* and *P. grandiflora*. *Cephalanthera damasonianum* was also seen, and has white, barely-opening, self-pollinating flowers.

Our destination at Lijiang were the magnificent pine forests and alpine meadows of the Yulong Jeushan Mountains, an area rich in terrestrial orchids. Here we saw *Oreorchis erythrochrysea* and *Herminium ophioglossoides*, both with small yellowish or greenish flowers. The diminutive, purple-flowered *Amitostigma tibeticum* was growing in a broad grassy subalpine valley. Further down the mountains, dozens of *Ponerorchis brevicalcarata* were growing on a dry

Right: *Calanthe brevicornu* Danyun Gorge

Below: *Bletilla ochracea* Wolong

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Amitostigma tibeticum
Ganghoba Valley

hillside in sparse pine forest. *Calanthe tricarinata* was growing in a damp seepage line on a hillside, while the red form of the pretty *Phaius delavayi* was growing in several places in the shaded subalpine forests. From Lijiang we travelled to Zhongdian, where many *Cypripedium* were in flower, but few other terrestrial orchids, although I did see *Cephalanthera longifolia* and *Oreorchis patens* flowering on a dry scrubby hillside.

From Yunnan it was a short flight to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. We spent much of our time in the mountainous area to the north-west of Chengdu, which was the area that was hit by the terrible earthquake of May 2008. As we were travelling through the mountains, the yellowish flowers of *Blettila ochracea* graced many roadside cuttings and cliff faces. At Wolong, *Oreorchis oligantha* was growing along the road. This species has a broad labellum with a crenulate margin. Another roadside orchid was *Epipactis mairei*, a species with long slender stems that grows up through grasses and shrubs for support. It has dozens of sequentially-opening, nodding, rather dull greenish flowers but with a surprisingly colourful lip. In the high

Above and Right: *Calanthe tricarinata* Heushui

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alpine meadows at Balangshan Pass, *Orchis wardii* was common. This species has attractive, red-blotched crowded flowers, and was common in the alpine meadows, although often hidden in the lush thick growth.

Our next stop was the Huanglong Biosphere Reserve, an area of truly breath-taking mountain scenery, and a great area for orchids. In the alpine grasslands of Xeushan Pass, at 4,000 m altitude, several orchids were in flower, including *Androcorys pugioniformis*, with its small round greenish flowers, the purple *Ponerorchis roborowskyi* and the pretty mauve *Ponerorchis schlecteri* just starting to flower. The white-flowered *Amitostigma nivale* was also in flower. This species has been lumped with the purple-flowered *Amitostigma monanthum*, but has longer, broader, straight petals and a less distinctly lobed labellum than *A. monanthum*. The two orchids certainly look different enough to warrant the name *A. nivale* being retained. is now included *P. chusua* was a common species of the subalpine forests in Sichuan.

Above: *Calypso bulbosa* var. *speciosa* Huanglong

Right: *Orchis wardii* Balangshan Pass

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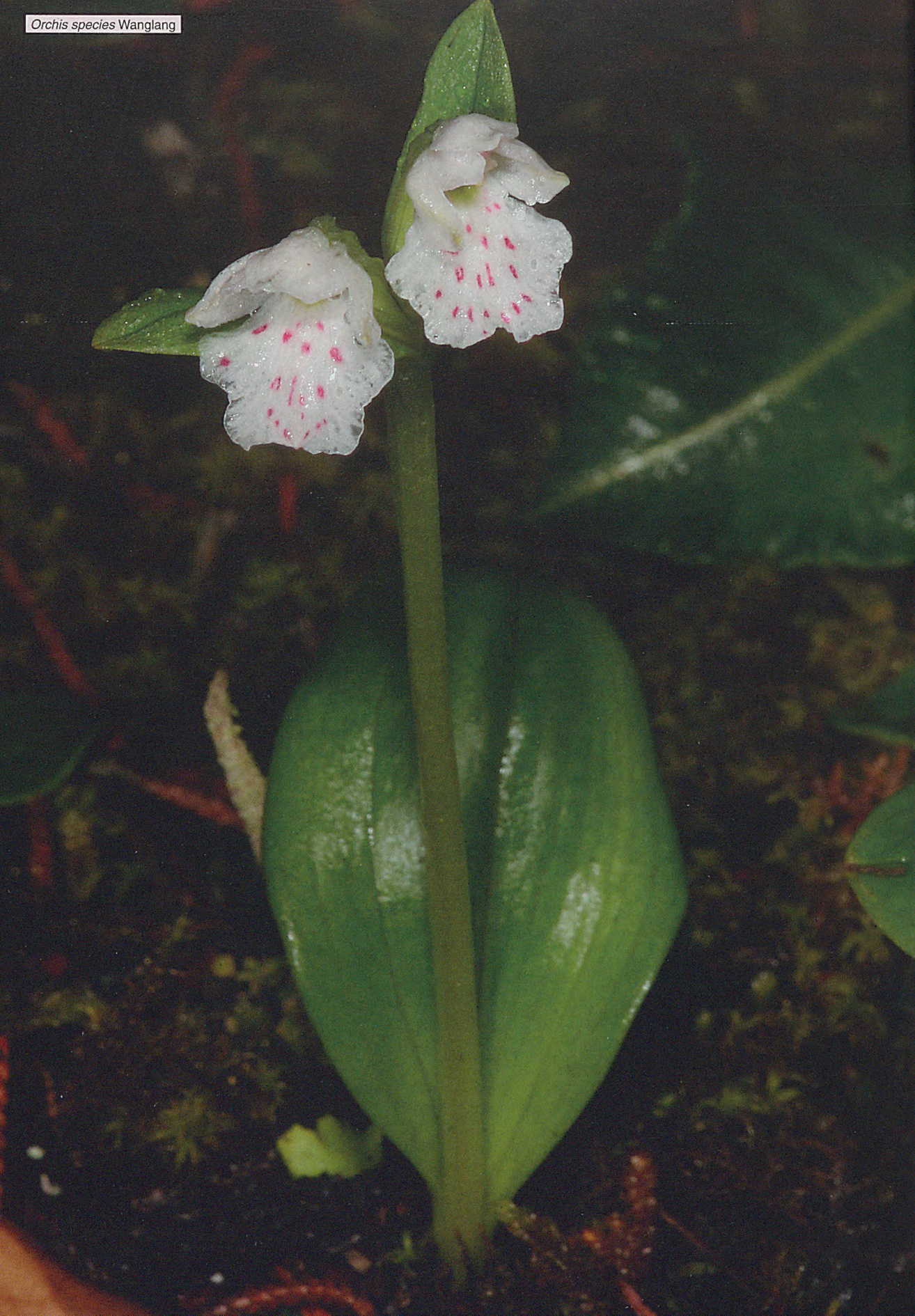
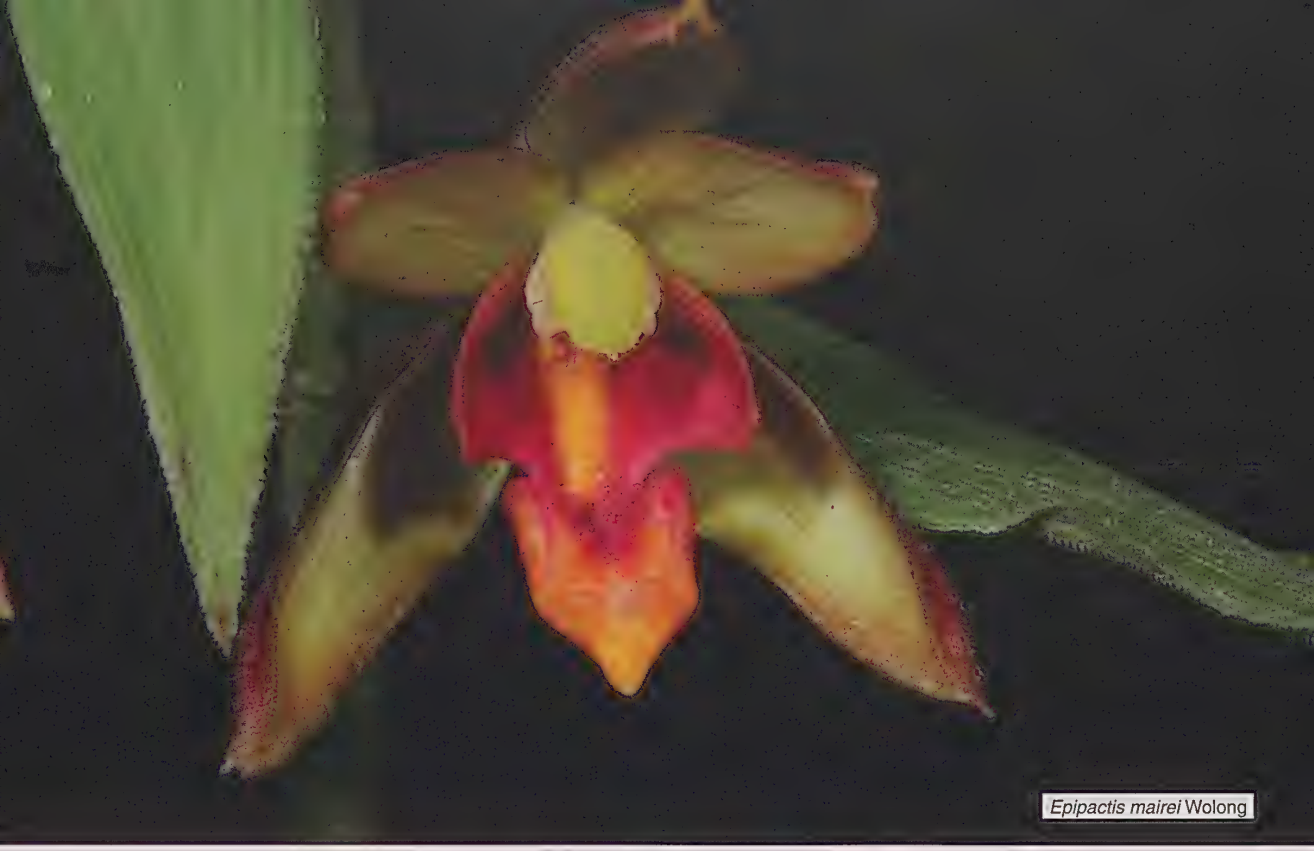

Orchis species Wanglang



Epipactis mairei Wolong

At about 3,000 m altitude, common orchids of the deeply shaded mossy floors of the dense subalpine conifer forests at Huanglong included *Neottia arcuata* (both brown and green forms), *Oreorchis nana* and the leafless epiparasitic *Corallorhiza trifida* with its tiny yellowish flowers. Another orchid growing in this habitat is the delightful little *Calypso bulbosa* var. *speciosa*, with the sepals and petals projecting above the relatively large pouched labellum. *Ponerorchis chusua* was just beginning to flower. Lower down the mountains, at Danyun Gorge, *Platanthera japonica* was in flower, with its tall stem of white flowers with a long,

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narrow labellum. Growing alongside it was *Calanthe brevicornu*, an attractive species with large lobed white, yellow and red lip.

The last area visited was Wanglang, at about 3,500 m altitude. The subalpine pine forests there had some very nice terrestrial orchids in flower, including the very aptly-named *Platanthera minutiflora*, a diminutive species with tiny green flowers, *Oreorchis foliosa* var. *indica* with a purple-marked white labellum, the fine brown-flowered *Tipularia szechuanica* with its long labellum spur and the yellow form of *Phaius delavayi*. *Coeloglossum viride* was also locally common. This species has attractive green flowers with a brown, forked labellum and long green floral bracts, and is widely distributed across the Northern Hemisphere.

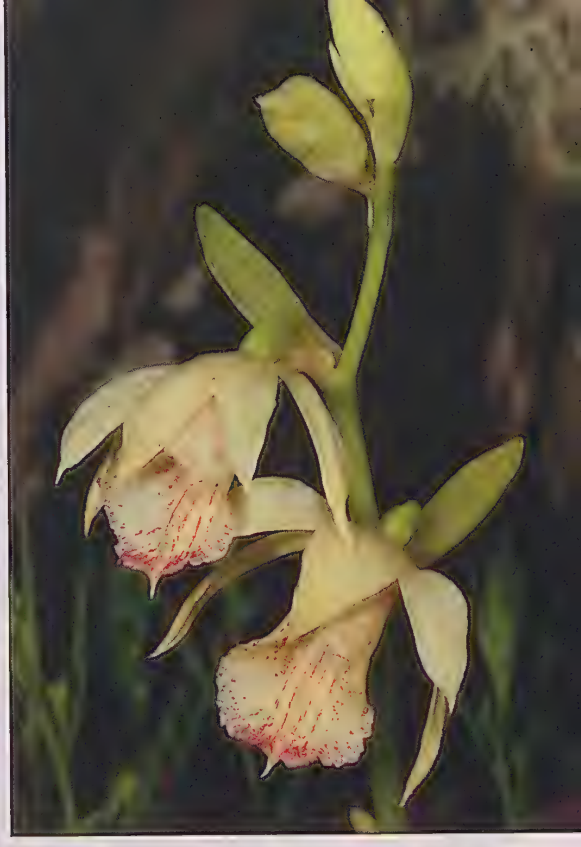
There was a perplexing array of small white, purple and pink-flowered orchids of the *Amitostigma/Orchis/Ponerorchis* alliance growing at Wanglang, and trying to identify these proved a real challenge. *Amitostigma monanthum* is a purple-flowered species with a distinctive, deeply lobed labellum and small curved, rounded petals. This was moderately common in montane open pine woodland on gravel soils. *Ponerorchis roborowskyi* was also in flower at Wanglang. This species has a

Above: *Oreorchis indica*
Wanglang

Left: *Oreorchis erythrochrysea*
Ganghoba Valley

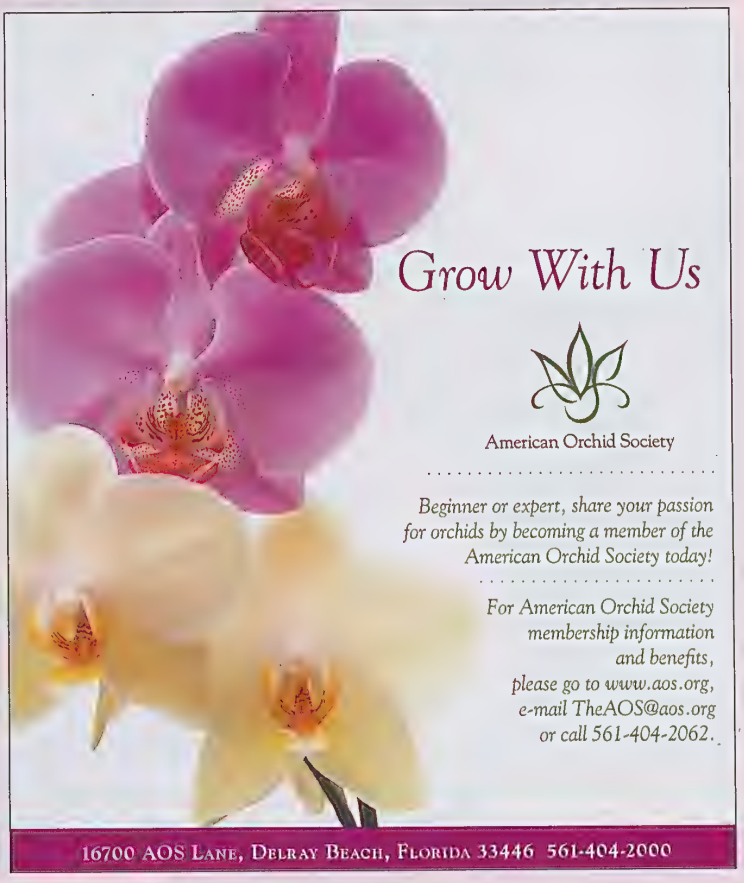
Right: *Oreorchis nana*
Huanglong

Above: *Phaius delavayi* Ganghoba Valley



Above: *Phaius delavayi* (pale form) Wanglang

Below: *Platanthera japonica* Danyun *Gorge*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Pleione bulbocodioides
Lanping

Ponerorchis brevicalcarata
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Above: *Pleione* species
Lanping

Right: *Ponerorchis roborowskyi*
Zeushan Pass

single lanceolate leaf and a longish, lobed labellum with the lobes flared outwards and a down-turned spur. Growing alongside it was a probably undescribed *Ponerorchis* species which had a broader, elliptic to ovate leaf, and smaller pinkish flowers with bowed, shorter labellum lobes and a down-turned spur. A third possibly undescribed species in flower resembling *P. chusua* had a single, lanceolate leaf and flowers with a long upturned spur. There was also an undescribed, white-flowered species of *Orchis* that has a broad, indistinctly lobed labellum with reddish spots. Certainly there seems to be plenty of work yet for orchid taxonomists with this confusing group of decidedly pretty little orchids. My thanks to Dr Holger and Wenquing Perner for organising a superb trip to see some of the great orchids of China.

Gary Backhouse
Greensborough, Victoria
Email: outbackorchids@hotmail.com

2009 National Orchid Extravaganza at Dural, NSW

Text by Peter Moore, photos by David Banks

As this is the perfect time of year for Cymbidiums to flower at their best, so it seems apparent to have a show that presents them whilst at their optimum. Again the Cymbidium Club of Australia hosted the 2009 National Orchid Extravaganza at the Dural Recreation Centre from the 7th to 9th August. The show again this year exceeded all of our expectations. The weather was perfect and this set the mood for the three days of the show.

The venue was available to us on the Wednesday and that gave the troops plenty of time to set up. With over 120 tables to erect this takes many hands. Under the watchful eye of Keith Harris the task I believe was completed very quickly and that gave the members who were on hand the opportunity to start putting their plants on display. I arrived there after work on the Wednesday evening and was surprised to see what had already been benched.

Before we knew it Thursday morning was upon us and there was a definite air of high expectation in the venue. The amount of perfectly grown cymbidiums was amazing. It is at this stage that a buzz fills the venue and everyone is having a really good time. After about 4 hours with the benches filled and the table top displays completed the judging was able to begin. This year the hand-picked judges had the job in front of them as the standard was the highest that I have seen in years.

At this stage the venue was complete and looked absolutely fantastic as we had filled the entire complex. With cymbidiums displayed in every possible and practical way, this show was definitely the best yet.

Right: *Cymbidium* (Akebono x Valley Olympic) #2, D. Wain

Above: *Cymbidium* (Ambersands x Khan Wall), G. Giles

Below: *Cymbidium* (Catarmaca x Roger Roger), D. Wain

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Left: *Cymbidium* (Jessie Blakiston x Red Khan), N. & V. Shipway
Champion Miniature & Champion Seedling

Right: *Cymbidium* (Khan Flame x Blazing Fury) 'Kurnell', G. Bryant

Above: *Cymbidium* (Lady Angela x Khanation), S. Barrie

Below: *Cymbidium* Autumn Emerald, N. & V. Shipway

The only task still to do was to place the winning sashes and rosettes on the plants and displays along with the prize cards. By the end of Thursday all the vendors had arrived and the stage was set for 3 great days.

This year's Grand Champion and Champion Large Flower was *Cymbidium* Lunar Blaze grown by Dr. Geoff Le Marne. This outstanding dark pink was presented perfectly and a deserved winner. The Reserve Champion and Champion Intermediate was the classy *Cymbidium* Khanebono 'Jacinta'. This beautiful pink flower has definitely set the benchmark for future champions. Both of these growers are a credit to themselves for the way in which they grow and present their plants which makes them constant winners of shows in NSW. As the quality of the blooms was so great there was very little between both of these plants.

Champion Small Standard was *Cymbidium* Flaming Vulcan 'Dural' grown by Dr. G. Le Marne. Champion Miniature and Champion Seedling was *Cymbidium* (Jessie Blakiston x Red Khan) grown by Norm & Val Shipway. Champion Specimen was *Cymbidium* One Tree Hill 'Beenak'

Above: *Cymbidium* (Lunar Flame x Alexandra's Flame), G. Giles

Below: *Cymbidium* Foxfire Amber 'Dural', G. Giles

Cymbidium Khanebono 'Jacinta', G. Serhan
Reserve Champion &
Champion Intermediate

grown by Bryan Janes. This magnificent plant with 18 spikes and averaging 20 flowers per spike made a very impressive sight. Champion Cut Stem was *Cymbidium* Willunga Regal 'Princess' well presented by Peter Hestelow. Champion Bloom was *Cymbidium* Flaming Vulcan 'Dural' grown by Luis Friess, again another fine specimen of this brilliant hybrid.

Champion other Genera was the complex slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum* Pathfinder Heritage grown by Joyce and Sam Atwal. This beautiful flower has again this year taken out this section of the show.

This year the committee decided to abandon floor displays and put on a centre piece which was featured in the centre of the venue. Being in an octagon shape this gave 8 individual sections which the members filled and was an instant success. Also introduced this year were the floral art classes. Both these attracted so many positive comments and the buzz around the venue was sensational. It was great to see members of the public who came in on all three days as they couldn't get enough of the show.

Whilst on that subject our sincere thanks to all these vendors who travelled many kilometres to be at our show. It is a great testament to you and we enjoy having all of you join us annually.

Above: *Cymbidium* Kulnura Snow 'Barrita', D. Brooks

Right: *Cymbidium* Kulnura Sweet 'Valencia', S. Barrie

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Cymbidium Lunar Blaze,
G. LeMarne
Grand Champion

Cymbidium One Tree Hill
'Beenak', B. Janes

On the Saturday night we had a dinner at one of the local restaurants and the vendors and club members had a great night. It is always good to get away from the venue, have a good feed and talk orchids with these guys in a relaxed atmosphere. It was the most club members that we have ever had attend and that was great for them to also mix with the interstate vendors.

There are so many people to thank but I must make a special mention of Sel Mumford and Bruce Mitchell. Both these guys gave came and stayed at Dural for the 5 days and their assistance to Keith Harris and his team was tremendous. Also a special thanks to my sister Michelle, who this year gave me assistance for the entire four days.

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AOR 024

Left: *Cymbidium* Plush Canyon 'Beenak', J. Janz

Below: *Cymbidium* Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem', A. & J. Gatt

To the other club members that gave freely of their time can I please say a huge THANK YOU. It was so gratifying to see so many of our members giving freely of their time, assisting members of the public with their purchases and having a great time. It is this camaraderie that is making this group one of the best clubs in Australia.

We once again had the assistance from the Dural Rotary Club who provided all with the necessary refreshments. The guys and gals spend the day feeding us sausage and onion sandwiches and coffee. With their attendance it completes a great day out and they are a regular added feature to the show.

Let's hope that next year we can do it even better than this year and continue to make this show the premier orchid show on the Sydney calendar. With people who travel from overseas and interstate we will once again look forward to seeing you all again next year.

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Secretary CCA (NSW)
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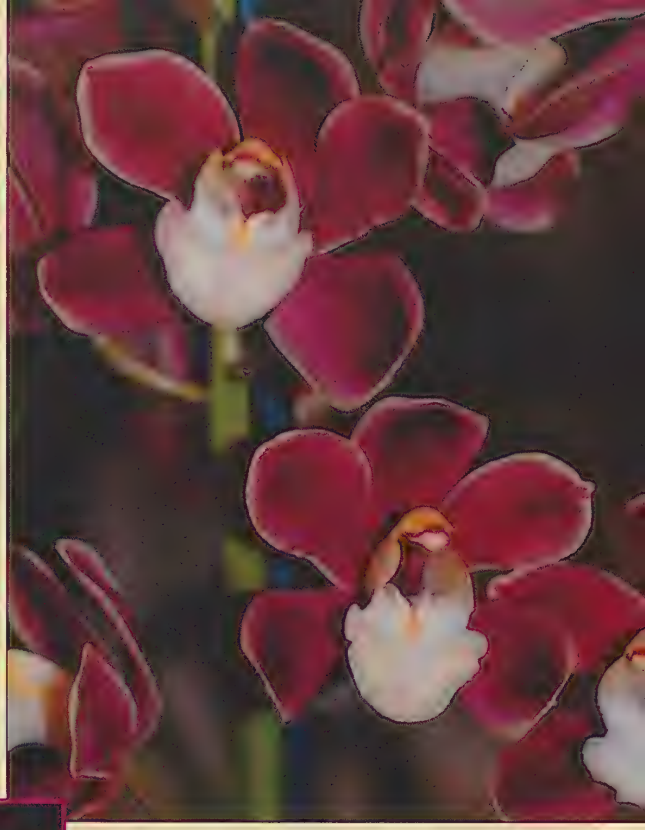

Above and Top Left: *Cymbidium* Red Pepper 'Janice', R. Wells

Cymbidium Wyong Flame 'Verdeilho', G. LeMarne

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Left: *Cymbidium sinense formosana* 'Wonderful', Fong Ping

Above: *Cymbidium sinense* variety, Fong Ping

Cymbidium Tathra 'TOM',
G. LeMarne

Mt Beenak Orchids prizewinning display at the 18th AOC Conference held recently in Victoria, featuring *Masdevallia* species & hybrids plus members of the *Odontoglossum* alliance.

19th AOC Conference & Show Perth, Western Australia

10th to 16th September 2012 *"Wild About Orchids"*

We are compiling an email database for the forthcoming 19th Australian Orchid Conference, 2012 in Perth - Western Australia, using the database from our successful WA Orchid Spectacular 2008. Please contact us at waos@iinet.net.au for your email address to be added to this database, to receive further updates.

The Good News today is that the web site for the 19th Australian Orchid Conference, 2012 is now up and running at: **http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm**

It is, of course, early days, as the conference is still some time away, but it is never too soon to be making your plans to visit us in 2012.

It is early days for the 19th AOC Conference web site too and it will be updated as there are new developments. So far we have some items to stir your interest, with all the usual pages of contacts, subscribing to our e-Newsletter, and a page About Us, the hard working 19th AOC Conference Committee. Here you can put faces to the mysterious volunteers who toil behind the scenes.

The "What's New" page gives you the very latest in our thinking, including our intention to make application for the 22nd World Orchid Conference, which will be held in 2017, plus our proposed attendance at the 20th WOC in Singapore in 2011 to promote both Perth 2012 the 22nd WOC application.

Information regarding the 19th AOC Conference venue, Lecture Program, our vendors, and a host of other interesting facts will be posted as they come to hand, so please bookmark the home page for future reference.

Future pages will bring you information regarding accommodation, orchid and wildflower tours, registration, the schedule, home visits, what to see in Perth and Western Australia and a proposed gallery of Western Australia's unique native orchids.

Should you have any queries or questions regarding the 19th AOC Conference, please feel free to contact the me by email at waos@iinet.net.au. ■

Tony Watkinson
Webmaster
19th AOC Conference 2012
Email: waos@iinet.net.au

A New *Phaius* Hybrid

Text and photos by Ray Clement

Phaius Island Fling

(*Phaius* Charlesworthii x *Phaius flavus*)

I have always been fascinated with our native swamp orchids (*Phaius* species). It has long been an ambition of mine to see these evergreen terrestrial orchids in the wild. Stories abound among the locals of plants growing along the coastal fringe in northern New South Wales, but getting to see them in situ has proven difficult. Sadly development along the coastal strip has wiped out many previous habitats, but I believe there are still healthy populations on some of the islands off the south-east Queensland coast.

Plants are rarely available in flask, so a few years ago I decided to make some hybrids. We eventually got seedlings of a *Phaius tankervilleae* sibling and a cross between an "alba" (pure yellow) form of the 1900 primary hybrid *Phaius* Charlesworthii (*bernaysii* x *wallichii*) and a plant we were calling *Phaius minor* (1856). It turns out that *Phaius flavus* (1831) is an earlier and the correct name for this widespread species that is found throughout tropical and subtropical Asia down to the south-west Pacific islands. There is also a spotted leaved form that is known as *Phaius flavus* forma *punctatus*.

From the Charlesworthii x *flavus* cross, I hoped to get some good strong yellows with nicely marked lips. The first of the seedlings bloomed in October 2009, and have been very nice yellows with the reddish undulated labellum from the species parent. The plants are strong growing and flower count is good, with about 14 flowers per stem. In comparison, Charlesworthii carried around 9-10 flowers, whilst *flavus* can have up to 24 blooms.

In 2009, we applied to the RHS for registration of the cross as *Phaius* Island Fling, which has been accepted.

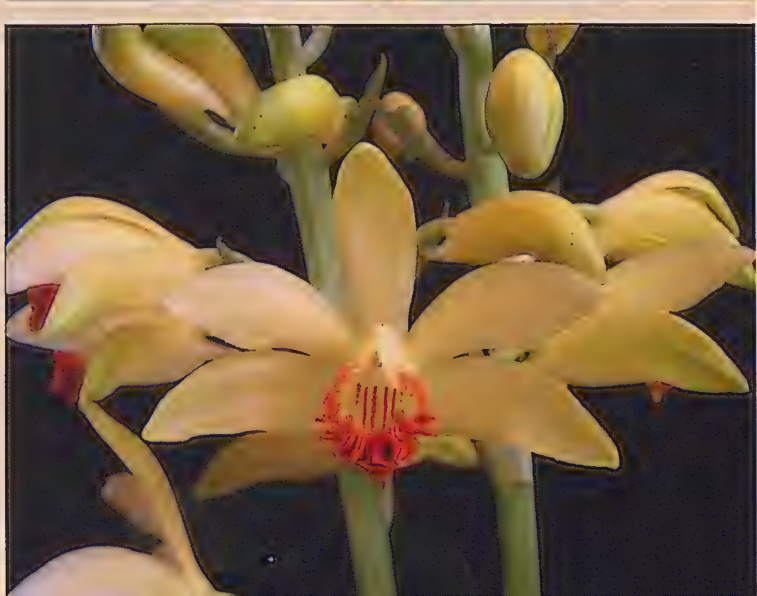
Phaius are a very rewarding group of plants. We grow them on large standard-sized pots in a medium of small grade Orchidmate coconut husk chips, under 70% shadecloth in the bushhouse. Keep them moist during the warmer months. In fact many successful growers sit their swamp orchids in shallow saucers of water during spring and summer. *Phaius* are also one of the few evergreen orchids that flourish in a well drained garden position in dappled light.

(Editor's Note: Tinonee Orchid Nursery has a limited number of large, (unbloomed) flowering sized seedlings of this exclusive cross available to *AOR* readers in 200mm pots for only $25.00 (plus freight). It is expected that these will go very quickly).

Ray Clement
Tinonee Orchid Nursery
Tinonee, NSW
Email: orchids@tinoneeorchids.com
Website: www.tinoneeorchids.com

Above, Upper Left and Upper Right:
Phaius Island Fling

Middle and Lower Right:
Phaius flavus



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AOR 065

Revolutionary Orchidarium

launched at Australian Orchid Conference

One of the most talked about accessories at the recent Australian Orchid Conference and show was undoubtedly the Orchidarium launched by The Australian Orchidarium Company.

Well known orchid personality and owner of Easy Orchids, Murray Shergold has teamed with Peter Meyer recently of The Orchid Tray Company to create a unique and totally different Orchid growing case that they have named an Orchidarium.

The standard Orchidarium is 4' in length and comes with everything that you need to grow perfect Orchids of many genera including paphs and phals, oncids, dens & many more. The Orchidarium comes with heater, built in 24/7 fan, hygrometer and thermometer linked to a thermostat, and a mirrored back wall. All accessories are prewired and have isolating switches so that they can be controlled by the easy to set thermostat or switched on or off at will.

Some of the major benefits of this type of growing includes faster growth, extended flower life and easy insect control. The Orchidarium's front opening doors also makes arranging your plants really easy. Besides all these standard features, the unique feature of The Orchidarium is the specially developed wet wall. Wet wall technology is well known to many large nurseries but Murray believes this is a first for a small enclosed growing environment.

"Peter and I started talking about this idea as a bit of a project about two years ago. After exploring and rejecting many concepts I hit on the wet wall idea. It took numerous prototypes before the model you see on display today" said Murray.

Peter and I believe there is a big market for this Orchidarium, which is not limited to just Orchids. In Europe there are some incredible growers who have designed orchidariums to incorporate all sorts of plants from palms to ferns and also lizards and other insects and even tortoises. This type of growing is becoming more popular especially, for people with small collections or living in apartments. Also for people with rare plants that they want to control the micro climate, this is perfect.

Peter and Murray plan this to be a major piece of household furniture so a decorative stand is on the drawing board as well as models to suit any requirement.

The standard Orchidarium sells for $2850 plus freight and is delivered already assembled instructions. Visit Orchidariums.com.au for more information.

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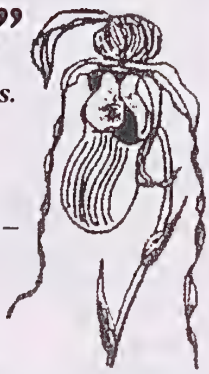

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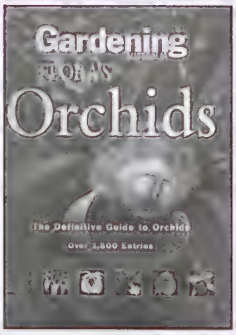
FLORA'S ORCHIDS

Senior Consultant David P. Banks



Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridization, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

368 pages, colour.
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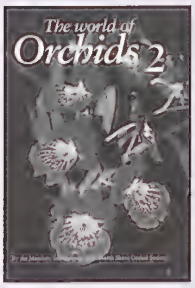
THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS – 2



The World of Orchids – 2 has been written by members and friends of the North Shore Orchid Society about orchids grown in Sydney and its environs, and we are indebted to those people for their time and effort.

It has been produced to cover a large range of genera to help not only the novice, but also the experienced grower in their present fields of interest, and to tempt and encourage them to try other genera.

It should be pointed out that the methods of culture used by the authors are those which they themselves have found successful. Growers should try any changes to their own culture gradually and on a few plants first, as orchids respond differently under different conditions.

80 pages, colour and B&W.

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ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

How to grow orchids in the backyard

Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you haw to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

144 pages
Colour and B&W.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would [illegible] artificial heating in cooler cli[illegible] ume covers a further 31[illegible] hybrids with 34[illegible] are highly recomm[illegible] fanciers; particularly new[illegible] who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

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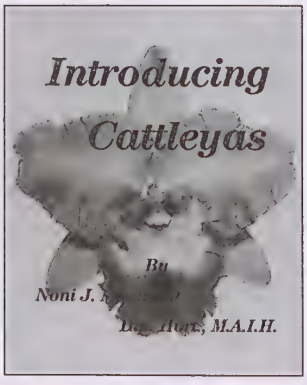
INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS

Noni J. Mammatt



Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shadehouse conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

24 pages, B&W.

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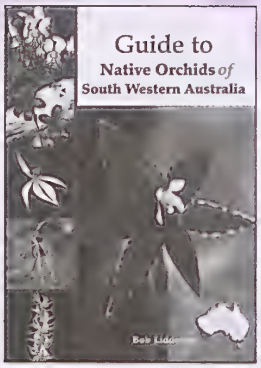

A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Bob Liddelow

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelow has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

Over 210 pages, colour throughout. 210mm x 148mm. Softcover.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages. Colour and B&W.

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SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

Walter T. Upton

Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus Sarcochilus. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

The book gives ividual species a separat ation on its his- habitat, cultiva- along with a drawing main parts of the plant and el, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

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Hybridising, inclu ergenerics, is dealt with in detail – most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*.

119 pages, colour and B&W.

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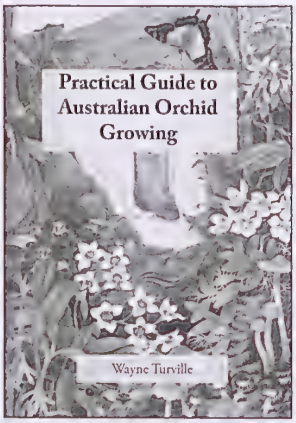

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING

by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia – specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

64 pages, colour. 210mm x 146mm. Softcover.

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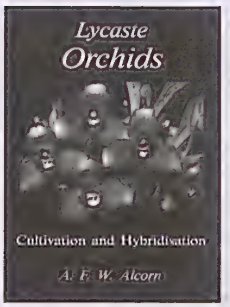

LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

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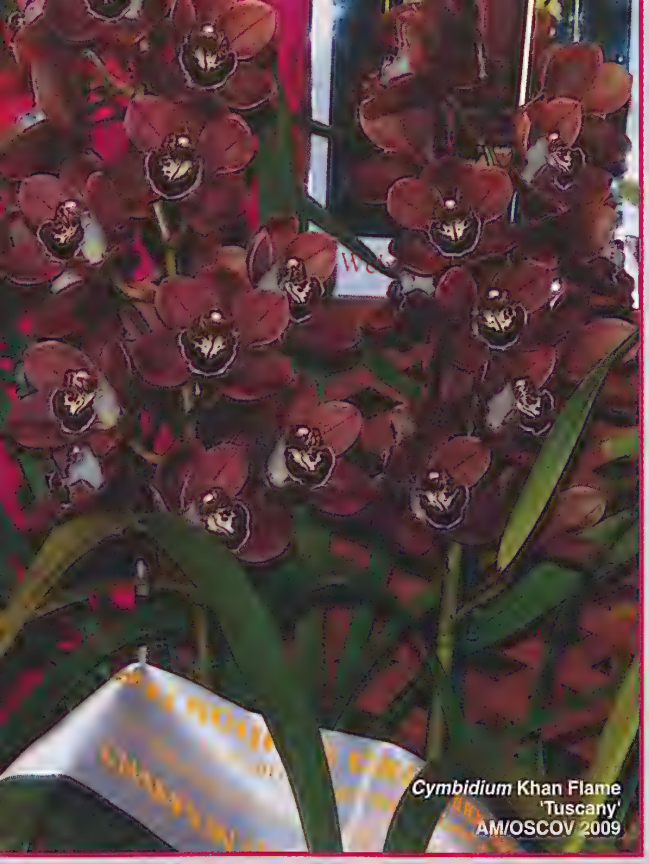


Cymbidium Khan Flame 'Tuscany' AM/OSCOV 2009

Epidendrum parkinsonianum 'Fitzy' HCC/OSCOV 2009

The Melbourne Orchid Spectacular – 2009

Text by Stephen Early, photos by Ken West & Jan Miles

Lycaste Macama 'Atlantis' AM/OSCOV 2009

This year the **Melbourne Orchid Spectacular** was run by the **Orchid Societies Council of Victoria** (OSCOV) for the first time (in the past they have just co-ordinated the show) and it incorporated the **Victorian International Orchid Fair** which was previously held at Greensborough in May. This combining of the largest annual orchid show in Australia with the leading orchid sales event in Victoria was a great success. The venue was changed to Springers Leisure Centre. This must surely be the best venue one could wish for with a huge area for show and sales combined with ample parking, wheel chair friendly access and everything under the one roof. Although this was a first time the conclusions at the end of the show was that it was like no other event seen in Victoria and one if you missed you have to be sorry.

The show boasted 26 large displays from orchid societies and commercial nurseries along with 6 displays from sponsors of orchid related products. The sales area had 27 Victorian, interstate and international suppliers selling plants and orchid growing merchandise.

Left: *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* 'Fitzy' HCC/OSCOV 2009

Below: Orchid Species Plus Display

Below: *Cymbidium* Alexandra's Flame 'Pink Impression'

The setup day was Wednesday and by 4pm the show area was set up and the displays finished by almost all of the exhibitors and well ahead of the deadlines. This was possible largely due to the spirit of co-operation between societies and the large amount of space available. Many of the societies had already collected exhibitor numbers from the show marshal prior to the day meaning tickets could be printed and the only entries they needed to complete were for the modifiable classes making the entering of plants in the show easy and quick.

Judging was on the Thursday and was completed by early afternoon including champions and awards. The Champion Orchid Non-Commercial was *Cymbidium* Khan Flame 'Tuscany' exhibited by Colin and Karen Gillespie. This was an extremely well grown plant with two upright inflorescences with plenty of well displayed flowers on each spike and was granted an AM/OSCOV by the judges. The Reserve Champion Orchid Non-Commercial being *Lycaste* Macama

Above: Castle Creek Orchids Display

Right: *Rhynchostylis gigantea*

'Atlantis' exhibited by Cory Haugh. This plant had three beautiful white flowers and a bud on a relatively small plant and was also granted an AM/OSCOV by the judges.

The Champion Orchid Commercial was *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* 'Fitzy' exhibited by Bill & Jan Miles of Orchid Species Plus. This was a large plant almost two metres high (!) and covered in flowers and was granted a HCC/OSCOV (the plant had previously been awarded a Cultural Certificate some years before). The Champion Display of the Show was by Gippsland Orchid Society which was an island display based on a potting shed. The display was both distinctive in concept as well as displaying well many high quality orchids. The Reserve Champion Display of the Show by the Yarra Valley Orchid Society which again put on a quality display of high quality orchids. The Champion Commercial Display was by Orchid Species Plus showing a large number of species orchids displayed on a hanging double sided wall. The Reserve Champion Commercial Display by Castle Creek Orchids and as normal contained a large number of quality orchids.

A number of other outstanding orchids included a *Paphiopedilum venustum* exhibited by Dieter Weise with 6 flowers and 2 buds. This won Champion Paphiopedilum Species Non-Commercial and three weeks later won Champion Paphiopedilum at the Australian Orchid

Council Conference. The best Paphiopedilum Hybrid was *Paphiopedilum* Danella 'Chilton' well flowered and exhibited by Brian Noble. The Champion Specimen of the show was a plant of *Cymbidium* Alexandra's Flame 'Pink Impression' shown by Karen and Colin Gillespie as was the Champion Seedling, *Cymbidium* Lunar Flame x Blazing Fury. Karen and Colin went on to success at both the Australian Cymbidium Show and the Australian Orchid Council Conference and has become a leading grower of large flowered cymbidiums. The Champion Australian Native Orchid Species was *Dendrobium speciosum* 'Windermere' exhibited by Murray Harding and the best Australian Native Hybrid was *Dendrobium* (Avril's Gold x *speciosum*) exhibited by Henk van den Berg which was also the Champion Orchid Exhibited by an Interstate or Overseas Grower. As usual, Henk's native display was eyecatching and outstanding.

A full list of winners and photos can be found at the OSCOV website www.oscov.asn.au

The show was open to the public on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday and was well attended. On the Saturday night the Annual OSCOV dinner was held and the framed photos of the Orchids of the Year winners for 2008 were presented. This was an excellent show and much was learnt for future years as it the first time OSCOV had entirely run the show. I am confident it will be bigger and better next year with a number of possible changes to improve the show for the future currently under consideration.

Stephen Early
President OSCOV
Email: swearly@bigpond.com

Henk van den Berg's Native Orchid Display

Paphiopedilum Crossianum

VIOF 2009
Part of Sales Area

Two new Orchid Species from the Philippines: *Mycaranthes leonardoi and Robiquetia enigma*

by Ulysses Ferreras and Wally Suarez*

Abstract: Two new orchid species from the Philippines, specifically in the central Sierra Madre Mountains on the island of Luzon, *viz*. *Mycaranthes leonardoi* and *Robiquetia enigma* are here described as new.

During May and June 2006, Conservation International – Philippines conducted a biological Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) expedition in the Mingan Mountains, a mountain complex situated in the central portion of the Sierra Madre Mountains near the border region between Nueva Ecija and Aurora Provinces in Luzon.

Among the collected specimens were one plant each of a *Mycaranthes* and a *Robiquetia* species that have eluded identification by the senior author (UF). Around a year later, photographs were shown to Mr. Suarez who was immediately of the suspicion that the two could represent previously undescribed species.

Further studies and examinations of the microfiches of related taxa that were carried out by the latter failed to bring any conclusive evidence that will prove that the specimens were already known to science, and are here thus described as new.

HERBARIUM
14585
UF 457
UF 457
12 June 2006
Orchidaceae
Mycaranthes leonardoi Ferreras & Suarez
Luzon, Province of Nueva Ecija, Municipality of Gabaldon, Mt. Mingan.
Habitat: Montane forest 30 meters from camp, bivouac near forest stream
Epiphytic orchid found attached to dead tree 2 meters from the ground. Roots fibrous. Old leaf sheaths blackish. Leaf adaxial surface with sunken midrib. Leaf underside with raised midrib. Inflorescence stalk covered with whitish scurf. Photo taken.
Replicates: None

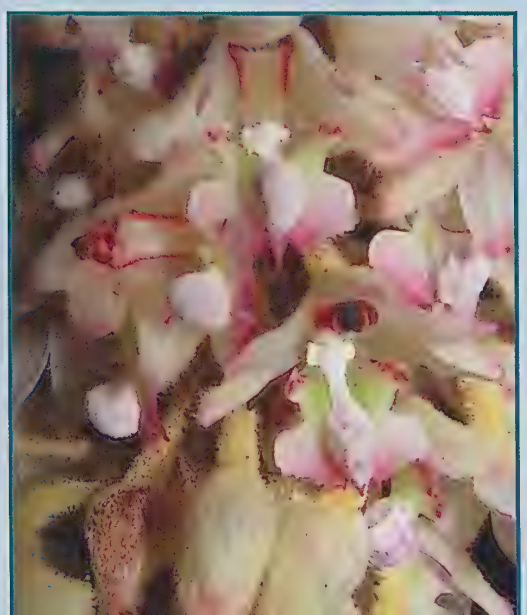
Above: Holotype of *Mycaranthes leonardoi*

Mycaranthes leonardoi Ferreras et Suarez *sp. nov.*

Folia lineari-lanceolata; *flores nutare*, *disposito arcte*, *pallido colore*; *midlobo habens retusus margines frontalis*; *differt*.

TYPE: PHILIPPINES, Luzon, Nueva Ecija, Municipality of Gabaldon, Mt. Mingan ; June 12, 2006. HOLOTYPE: U Ferreras 457 (PUH 14585)

Stem: curved, 35 cm long by 6 mm in diameter. Leaves: 14, linear-lanceolate, 19.9- 23 cm long by 1.4 cm in diameter. Inflorescences: 3, longest up to 23 cm in total length, peduncle to 15.5 cm long, clothed in dense, short white hairs, sterile bracts 8, acuminate, the longest to 1.3 cm long by 2 mm wide at the base; rachis 10.5 cm long, floral bracts strongly acuminate, to .3 cm long by 1 mm wide at the base. Flowers: 7 mm across, nodding. Sepals and petals are cream, tipped with pink; labellum cream, side lobes pale green with few dark pink spots at the apices, midlobe pale pink at the margins; column white with dark pink margins and apex; pedicel yellow. Dorsal sepal: elliptic, 5.5 mm long by 2 mm wide, densely pilose at the back. Petals: narrowly elliptic, apices acute, 5 mm long by *ca*. 1.75 mm wide. Lateral sepals: triangular, bases forming a mentum, 5 mm long by 4 mm wide, adaxial side densely pilose. Labellum: 3-lobed, 5 mm long; side lobes triangular to truncate-obtuse, 1.5 mm high by *ca*. 0.4 mm wide; midlobe 4 mm wide, somewhat resembling a pair of butterfly wings. Column foot: 2.1 mm long. Pedicel: 1 cm long, covered with dense downy hairs, ovary 2.5 mm long.



Right: *Mycaranthes leonardoi* – floral detail

Ecology: The only known specimen was found on a rotting log 2 metres from ground level at 1480 metres above sea level, in montane forest 20-30 metres away from a camp bivouac near a small stream. Dominant tree genera in the immediate area are *Adinandra*, *Ascarina*, *Omalanthus*, *Schefflera*, *Weinmannia*, etc., with a prevailing canopy height of 7-8 m. tall.

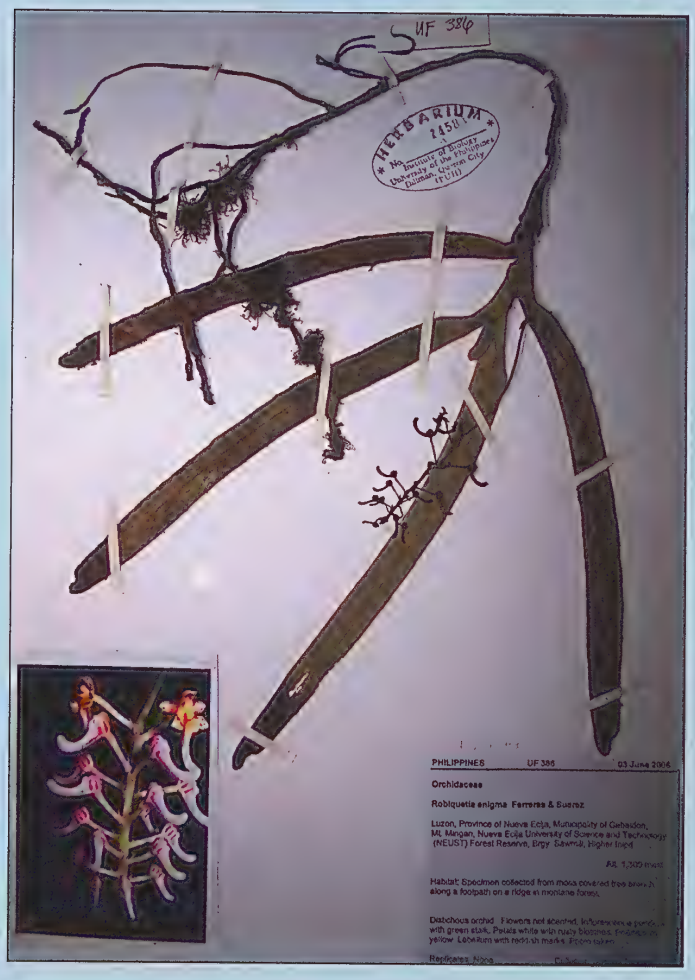
Recognition: *Mycaranthes leonardoi* is instantly recognisable by its very narrow, linear-lanceolate leaves, nodding, very densely arranged, pale-coloured flowers, a single mealy callus which narrows considerably towards the mesochile, before slightly thickening again at its basal portion, and a broad midlobe with retuse frontal margins.

Status: Undetermined, possibly very rare.

Etymology: This new species is named in honour of Leonardo Co, intrepid explorer and passionate Filipino botanist who is widely recognised as the leading authority on Philippine flowering plants and pteridophytes. He has been actively promoting the conservation and appreciation of Philippine native plants throughout his career. Mr. Co is a mentor and good friend to the senior author, and has contributed a considerable number of orchid photographs to the junior author.

Notes: The genus *Mycaranthes* was previously treated as a Section within *Eria*.

Left: *Mycaranthes leonardoi* – part of inflorescence



Above: Holotype of *Robiquetia enigma*

Robiquetia enigma Ferreras et Suarez *sp. nov.*

Affinis Robiquetia compressa (Lindl.) Schltr., *sed inflorescentio ramuloso raro*; *labello laterilobi rotundato*, *non leviter falcato*; *midlobo multo longius*, *acuminato maxime*; *calcar leviter incurvatum*; *differt.*

TYPE: PHILIPPINES, Luzon, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) Forest Reserve, Municipality of Gabaldon, Mt. Mingan, Brgy. Sawmill, Higher Inipit, June 3, 2006.

HOLOTYPE: U Ferreras 386 (PUH 14584)

Stem: upwardly curved, ca. 26 cm long by 3 mm in diameter, with strong, basal roots capable of reaching to around 1.5 metres long. Leaves: ligulate, 21.2 cm long by 1.5 cm wide, apex finely toothed. Inflorescence: appearing from the leaf axils, downwardly arching, 14 cm long, rachis 6.3 cm long. Flowers: sepals and petals are white with orange streaks and dots on the basal halves, adaxial side with purple streaks; labellum yellow, side lobes orange; midlobe with two small orange dots; spur white with purple streaks at the back; column yellow. Dorsal sepal: elliptic-ligulate, concave, apex acute, 6 mm by 2.5 mm. Petals: subspathulate, apices slightly acute, 5 mm by 2 mm. Lateral sepals: oblong-spathulate, slightly oblique, 6 mm by 2.5 mm. Labellum: three-lobed, lateral lobes rounded, very slightly flaring to the sides, inner surfaces with a low, rounded callus each, apical margins sometimes minutely emarginate, 1 mm high and wide; midlobe 2 mm long by *ca.* 1.75 mm wide, very fleshy, triangular from above, upper surface with a small, mound-like thickening, epichile strongly acuminate. Spur: incurved, sometimes only slightly so, 8 mm long by 2 mm thick at the proximal end. Column: stout, furnished with a pair of forward pointing triangular, fleshy appendages. Pedicel: six-ridged, 1.2 cm long including the ovary, ovary not much differentiated from the pedicel, 4 mm long.

Ecology: The type specimen was collected on a moss-covered tree branch along a footpath on a ridge in

montane forest at 1,300 metres above sea level. Prevailing canopy height is at 7-8 metres with trees represented by *Tristaniopsis*, *Podocarpus*, *Leptospermum flavescens*, *Syzygium*, *Camellia*, *Cinnamomum*, etc.

Recognition: *Robiquetia enigma* is closely related to *R. compressa*, but is at once distinguished by its inflorescences which seldom branches; rounded labellum side lobes, which are not slightly faced forward; a much longer, conspicuously acuminate midlobe and much less curving spurs. The midlobe of *R. compressa* does not terminate in the same way as that of *R. enigma*, and furthermore is only marginally longer than the side lobes when viewed from above.

Status: Locally quite common, but is of very limited distribution.

Etymology: The specific name was derived from the Latin *aenigma* which means puzzle, a reference to the quite puzzling circumstances as to how a conspicuous plant such as this could have escaped the detection of botanists for so long.

Notes: In April 2008 the authors, together with other plant enthusiasts, found another population of this species in the mossy forests of Mt. Tapu'lao in Zambales at an altitude of around 1,700 metres above sea level. The plants were observed as growing in shady conditions, not more than 3 metres from the ground. The largest plant observed had a stem 48 cm long and leaves to 14 cm long by 3.7 cm wide. Flower colour is the same as that of the type, but the labellum midlobe, with two large purple-pink patches, and a white spur which may or may not be streaked with orange.

Above: *Robiquetia enigma* – inflorescence

Right: *Robiquetia enigma* – floral detail

Below: *Robiquetia enigma* – plant and flowering habit

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to sincerely thank Jim Cootes (NSW, Australia) for willingly reviewing the draft and offering some very useful suggestions. We also would like to thank Mr. Aloy Duya of Conservation International for the opportunity to participate in the above mentioned RAP expedition; the teachers and staff of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) for all their help and hospitality; the DENR Regional Office for facilitating the release of the Gratuitous Permit; Mr. Nestor Bartolome and Mr. Frank Dalin and the native Dumagat tribes people and field crew for their kind assistance. Photographs taken by Ulysses Ferreras.

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Email: ayi_boy12@yahoo.com

Australian Natives

There are many natives that bloom during the summer months, including *Sarcochilus ceciliae, Dendrobium monophyllum, Phaius* species, *Calanthe triplicata* and our native cymbidiums. There will also be some *Dendrobium* hybrids with tropical parentage in bloom.

The ongoing challenge of providing enough water to keep our orchids growing and healthy remains. Light rain barely wets the soil and any good downpours seem to be followed by strong, drying winds. This means the challenge of storing water is now a long term issue. The variety of water tanks continues to increase.

Make the most of water by watering in the evening. This is a great time of day to get out in the cool after the sun sets and have a good look at your collection – unless you live in an area with lots of mozzies. Under bench foliage plants will help to maintain humidity levels throughout the day and will also help to create a healthy microclimate for orchids. If you are hand-watering change the order in which you water your plants so if you get tired or run out of time at the end the same ones don't keep missing out.

Look at your growing environment. See if you can stop some of the moisture-stealing winds by using solid coverings or simply trees and shrubs growing thick and high, but take care not to completely block all air movement or you will end up with a greenhouse that the cooler growing natives won't appreciate, or problems with fungal infections.

Repotting can continue over the summer, particularly if you didn't get it all done earlier. I had quite a few natives with mature growths by October. I wonder if I'll get a second crop before summer is out or do they know something unpleasant is coming? Evaluate your media. Does it dry out too quickly and need some water retaining material added? Take note of the usual warning about making a radical media change and applying it to the whole of your collection at once. There have been disasters where new media doesn't suit the growing conditions or water quality and many natives have been lost.

Keep the fertiliser dilute. You don't want salt build-up if you don't have the water to flush out the pots. If you are hand watering it would be very tempting to add fertiliser every time. Don't be tempted!

Keep things tidy around the plants. Remove weed from pots as they steal valuable water as well as turn the media to mush.

There will be pests ready to munch lush green new shoots. The usual slugs and snails and new growth munching caterpillars come out after dark. Ants nest in the top of growths of large dendrobiums such as *D. speciosum*, there will often be scale as well. I use a small amount of vegetable oil mixed with pure soap on them. It is also effective for upsetting aphids which collect on new growths. Aphids can be removed by gently running fingers along the growth and squashing them. An environmentally friendly method of control and you can use gloves if you don't like the mess. Dendrobium beetle is an insidious pest found in many drier areas. The black and orange adults lay eggs that look like foam at the base of the pseudobulbs. The larvae are fat caterpillars that eat out the centre of the pseudobulb. Their presence is often undetected until it is way too late. They particularly like the large growths of *D. speciosum*. Controlling this pest need potent systemic insecticides or, if you don't have many beetles, you could try catching and squashing adults by putting your hand or something under them before knocking them off the growth. If you notice a hole created by the caterpillar, insert a piece of wire or perform some light surgery to expose it then remove it.

Cattleyas

Cattleyas are now in full growth, new roots, growths etc. Divide plants if necessary and repot in your favourite media.

Inspect for scale insects. Spray with ANTI-SCALE®. Watch for phytophthora (black rot of bulbs). Once noticed, spray immediately with ALIETTE®. Remember, a six inch pot requires 200ml of made up solution to be drenched through the pot! (for further information on rates of drenching fungicides see Alan's Pest and Disease Handbook).

As light intensity increases, increase shading. Now is the time you can take your plants out of the green house and place in your shade house. Hang on your barbed wire lines that run north to south. This means good light – good air movement, which means good growth and flowering. Remember, watch the shading of your plants after taking them out the glass house. It is a good precaution to spray your plants with ENVY® after taking out of the glass house. This will help prevent foliage burn. NOTE WATCH SHADING!!!

Fertilise weekly with MERRI FERT at 1.25grams/litre of water.

Cymbidiums

Repotting should be nearly finished. If you are still repotting watch shading. You could spray with ENVY®, and mix SUPERTHRIVE® with your favourite fertiliser after dividing.

Watch your watering after repotting. DO NOT OVER WATER! Fertilise your mature plants with PETERS Excel Cal Mag or MERRI FERT. Fertilise weekly as the sun sets slowly in the west! If you have some plants that are not doing too well, fertilise with MERRI FERT at 0.75grams / one litre of water, to this add the required amount of SUPERTHRIVE®. Remember, once you mix SUPERTHRIVE® into a fertiliser, it will only last 24 hours before it starts to lose it's properties!

Check plants for two-spotted mites. If present spray with AZAMAX®, VERMITEC®, OMITE® or ECO OIL®.

Watch for dendrobium beetle if your plants are carrying seed capsules. Spray the capsules with AZAMAX® for protection.

TILL NEXT TIME – MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY and PROSPEROUS 2010!

Paphiopedilum

Any outstanding repotting should be attended to early during this period as paphiopedillums really do not like very hot weather and there is no sense in adding the stress of repotting to the stress caused by heat.

The early part of this period is the time to attend to shading. Look for areas of clear glass and spots where the sun shines through open vents. The best conditions are really obtained when extra shade is added during summer and largely removed during winter. If you follow this practice the shade should be in place by now. If, however, you just add a bit extra shade during summer this is the time to do it. Overlong leaves which tend to hang over the side of the pot are a sign of too much summer shade; short, upright, yellowish leaves indicate too little.

Regular watering and fertilising is the routine for this period of the year. Don't overdo it, even when the weather is hot. If the plants don't need water, and you feel you must do something, simply give them a misting with a fog nozzle. It is a good idea to get to know the weight of a pot when wet and when dry; this way you won't keep the plant too wet. The experienced grower can tell by the look of the plants when he needs to water – the leaves droop ever so slightly. Another

good trick is to run your hand over the top of the leaves; when they are turgid they rustle – when they need water they don't.

During very hot weather it is good practice to water during the evening. This helps the night temperature; it also allows the plant to take up and retain water so that it is better prepared for the heat of the next day.

If you strike a plant which is droopy and dehydrated, even though the mixture is obviously moist, the odds are that it has no roots. Maybe it has been kept too wet. In any case it should be repotted into fresh mixture, no matter what the season. Repotting is usually sufficient but if you feel there is a major problem, a swim in Fongarid for twenty minutes or so (the plant, that is) will do no harm.

Keep an eye out for mealy bug and treat it early if you find it, as it can spread like wildfire. The only other problem you may strike is a fungal infection which appears in hot, humid weather and seems to affect only green-flowered paphs. This appears as small brown spots which quickly turn to holes through the leaves. The effect is almost as though somebody has fired a shotgun – from some distance – at the plant. This does little harm but it is unsightly. It is easily cleared up with Ciba Geiav Rose spray.

Phalaenopsis

Summer is now with us. This means *Phalaenopsis* are sending up their new leaves so as to instigate new flowering nodes. Many growers had a bad winter with cloudy skies, low day temperatures, which in turn means the plants will not accept the required amount of nutrient to perform well. This may not have been a problem in some parts of Australia. I do know of some growers north of the Tropic of Capricorn who have had all sorts of problems over the winter period.

Enough of the past, how about the future. Repot if necessary. After repotting, fertilise with GROWTH BLOOD & BONE on a weekly basis. With freshly repotted plants, use the rate of 3ml/litre of water. Mature plants can handle a higher rate of 5ml/litre of water.

Once the flowering nodes reach 50mm you can fertilise with PETERS BLOSSOM BOOSTER on a weekly basis. Many professional growers inject BLOSSOM BOOSTER at 200ppm. This is only applied to mature production plants. This technique is carried out at most irrigations, with regular leaching. Remember *Phalaenopsis* require high levels of potassium and calcium to maintain strong flower stalks to carry the weight of the flowers!

It is a good idea to check the leachate. It should be no higher than 2 d S/m. At (3-) problems! (E.C 2.0).

Watch your shading during summer. Plenty of air circulation needed. Keep humidity up around 60-65%. DO NOT OVER WATER PLANTS. Keep the media just moist.

Irrigate only in the early mornings.

Spray for mealy bugs if present. Try NATRASOAP® mixed with SPRAYTECH OIL®. Watch for crown rot. Use HY-SAN®, ALIETTE® or SPOREKILL®.

Vandaceous

Potting:– Potting of small plants can be done at any time. Top any large plants which have become leggy, leaving at least three roots on the top. If possible some leaves should be left on the old stem to encourage kikie growth.

Watering:– Water daily. Keep root system moist with additional misting if necessary.

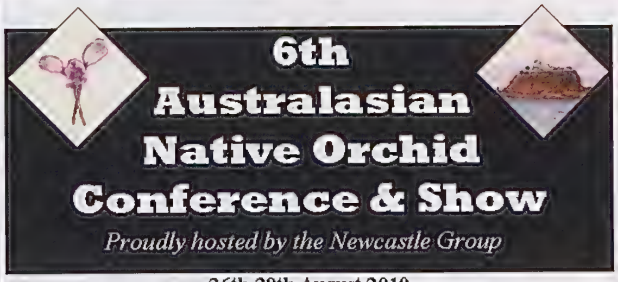
Light:– Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas need 50 to 70% shade. Other vandas 30%.

Fertiliser:– Fertilise weekly alternating over a four weekly period.

Wk.1. – Inorganic high nitrogen (Campbells B, Aqua feed or Aquasol).
Wk.2. – Wuxall Foliar.
Wk.3. – As for Wk.1.
Wk.4. – Organic (Fish Emulsion or Nitrosol).

Pest Control:– Fungicide every six weeks with Daconil, Mancozeb, Ridomil MZ WP, or Wettable Sulphur.

Use Diazanon, Malathion or Pyre-thrum to control scale and insects.



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45th Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Inc. Conference

11-12-13 June 2010

Townsville Orchid Society Inc. is the host society for the 2010 45th T.Q.O.C. Inc. Conference and Show, with arrangements pressing ahead very well. Being conscious of difficult financial times we have set the registration fee to just cover costs of dining and even then Early Bird (up till 28 February 2010) registrants will enter a draw for refund of fees. The Registration is $130 till 28/02/10 after which it becomes $140.

Prize money will exceed $2000- with the Grand Champion to receive $200- plus the Frank Slattery Perpetual Trophy. Reserve Champion $200 and Section Champions are $50 each.

Speakers are renowned for their work with orchids:

- Phil Spence of NSW who has spent many years studying the orchids of Papua New Guinea, as well as other Pacific regions.
- Kevin Butler from Perth (EZI-GRO Orchids), who will have just returned from Tokyo Orchid Grand Prix, full of the latest developments in *Phalaenopsis* and perhaps touch upon the same with Paphiopedilums.
- Ashley Field, a lecturer at the local James Cook University, who has a vast knowledge of North Queensland flora, particularly orchids, but also tassel ferns.

Most events will be staged at our own clubhouse in the Joe Kirwan Park, Charles Street, Kirwan (opposite No. 383) which will be extended in the interim. Dining is arranged at Kirwan Tavern, just around the corner. Enquiries to Wal or Jean Nicholson will be gladly and expeditiously answered.

Telephone: (07) 47734208, Email: walandjean@bigpond.com, Post: P O Box 836 Aitkenvale DC, Qld 4814 or Website: http://townsvilleorchidsociety.org.au

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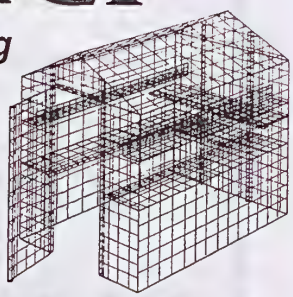

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AOR 004

Cymbidiums Australia

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Editor's Report

This issue brings a report on the National Cymbidium Show staged in Springvale, Melbourne in early September. The quality of new hybrids and seedlings on show was most impressive, including many excellent large flower types, small standards and some really outstanding intermediates, minis and novelty types. It wasn't just us Aussie "locals" who were impressed, but also the sizable contingent of New Zealand and American friends who made the trip over for the show.

While we are on the subject of National Cymbidium Shows, The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia has provided a copy of the show poster for the 2010 event, along with important contact information regarding the show. COCWA have got shown great enthusiasm for their first National Cymbidium Show and have the entire necessary organisation well in hand as a quick trip to their website will show. *(Their web address included in their information feature, this issue.)* What better excuse could there be for planning a visit to the west, than their first national Cymbidium Show?

Carolyn Allen has provided a brief review in words and pictures of the various champion and outstanding cymbidiums exhibited at the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria (OSCOV) show staged in August. The OSCOV show has always been one of the biggest, if not the biggest orchid shows staged in Australia and while the venue had changed for the 2009 event, the show was no the less spectacular than in previous years and as usual a large number of top quality cymbidiums were featured.

Graham Morris brings us the final instalment of his 6 part series on Cymbidiums for Beginners. Combined, the six parts provide a detailed reference for anyone wishing to get the most from their cymbidium collection, while providing the answers to most commonly asked questions concerning cymbidium culture. Our thanks to Graham for this massive effort provided over the past twelve months.

As we were preparing this issue, we are also rehousing our cymbidium collection, partly due to rationalising our collection and partly because of some cultural changes in response to Victoria's ongoing drought conditions and water shortage. One of the problems with trying to rationalise an orchid collection is that so many plants have stories attached to them, trying to decide what should go or stay can become a bit of a trip down memory lane at times.

Similarly, working on an issue of this magazine can be the same. Whether it's looking through files for a particular orchid photograph, or checking back issues for facts in an old article, the process often brings back memories. It's around eight years since we started this journey, joining Dean Roesler as part of the Cymbidiums Australia editorial team and while the journey has had its ups and downs over the time, it has been one we have thoroughly enjoyed and we hope that you have enjoyed the journey with us. When we accepted Dean's offer to join him we had no thoughts as to how long the job would last and are grateful to the Australian Cymbidium Society and its member clubs, the *AOR*, it's Editor and staff and all the many contributors to Cymbidiums Australia for their ongoing support. This issue takes us into a new year, with whatever changes or challenges that may bring. We hope it will be a great year for all of you. With thanks for your support and for so many great memories.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with our best wishes for good health and happiness to you all.

Rob & Noe Smith

Editors

Noe Smith **Rob Smith**

24 William Hunter Court,
Rosebud, Vic 3939

Tel/Fax: (03) 5986 1121

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HOW TO JOIN A CYMBIDIUM CLUB IN YOUR STATE

CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December and January)
Auditorium open from 7.00 p.m. —
Beginners' Group commences 7.20 p.m.
Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.
Venue: Burnside Community Centre,
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, Adelaide, S.A.
For further details contact
Secretary, Jeanne Hall,
18 Coorilla Avenue, Glenelg North, S.A. 5045
Phone: (08) 8294 5562
President, Ray Brady,
Phone: (08) 8252 3812

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except January and February)
Benching of plants commences 7.15 p.m.
Main Meeting commences 7.30 p.m.
Venue: Belmont Sports & Recreation Club,
Abernethy Road, Belmont, W.A.
For further details contact
President, Helen Stretch
Phone: 0419 197 943
Acting Secretary, Alice Lang,
Phone: (08) 9257 1056

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January)
Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m. —
Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.
Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre,
Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.
For further details contact
Secretary, Jenifer Robertson,
54 Worthing Road, Devon Meadows,
Victoria 3977
Phone: (03) 5998 2226
President, Glenda Coutts,
Phone: (03) 9727 4849

CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

(The CCA is not affiliated with ACS)

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except December, January and February)
Meetings commence 8.00 p.m.
Venue: Lakemba Chapter Remembrance Hall,
220 Lakemba Street, Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W.
For further details contact
Secretary, Peter Moore,
10 Stephanie Street,
Padstow, N.S.W. 2211
Phone: (02) 9721 0572
President, Geoff LeMarne,
Phone: (02) 9449 9648
Web: www.ccansw.com.au

The Australian Cymbidium Society 2009 National Cymbidium Show

Text and photos by Rob Smith

The Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria (COSV) hosted the **2009 *Fleurijn Orchids-Holland* National Cymbidium Show** at the Springvale City Hall, Springvale. This is the first time in the 14 year history of the National Cymbidium Show that a venue in metropolitan Melbourne had been chosen for the event and though the COSV has hosted the show on 6 previous occasions, the move to a metropolitan location provided a new experience and the opportunity for a greater number of members to exhibit and also for a greater number of local, interstate and overseas cymbidium enthusiasts to visit the show.

The Springvale City Hall provided a great venue with one large hall, well lit by both natural and artificial light for the show itself and another smaller hall also accessed via the main entrance which served as a venue for the orchid sales area. Some twenty displays were staged by individual exhibitors, or as joint displays, along with cymbidium club displays and displays by commercial growers. The total number of plants and cut stems exhibited kept around 25 judges plus associates and clerks busy for 4 hours before the judging was finally completed!

It was a pleasure to have a number of New Zealand and American judges who are members of the American Cymbidium Society join us in judging the show, this gave both them and our own judges the opportunity to learn about each other's particular judging values and approaches. Our New Zealand colleagues also requested that they be allowed to undertake some award judging under their system once our judging was completed and subsequently granted a number of Cymbidium Society of America Silver and Bronze medals to plants in the show.

The standard of culture and presentation across all exhibits in the show was outstanding, as was the sheer number of quality new hybrids and seedlings on display. There were certainly some outstanding new hybrids on display across all classes, unfortunately space constraints means that we can only include a small sample of them here, though we could easily fill the next several issues of the *AOR* with quality seedlings and new hybrids alone! The quality of flower form evident among orange, red, brown large

Champion Plant, *Cym.* Valley Splash 'Awesome', K & C Gillespie

Cym. Kimberley Lagoon 'Southern Glow', Kimberley Orchids

Cym. Fairy Rouge 'Lavender Falls', V Dinh

Left: *Cym.* Luna Blaze 'Kirwan', C & N Cleak

Below: Display, D & C Allen

Selections from our latest listings

C. schilleriana 'Marie' HCC/AOC x *C. schilleriana* 'DS'. Outstanding forms of the species.

Vanda Pachara Delight 'Blue Universal'. New release blue mericlone.

Dtps. Chain Xen Mammon '112'. Harlequin clone with white base colour and heavy maroon blotching.

C. trianae 'A.C. Burrage' AM/RHS. Superior variety of the species.

Paph. Hsinying Web x sukhakulii. Maudiae style flowers with heavily spotted petals.

Dtps. Sogo Pearl. Striking Yellow harlequin.

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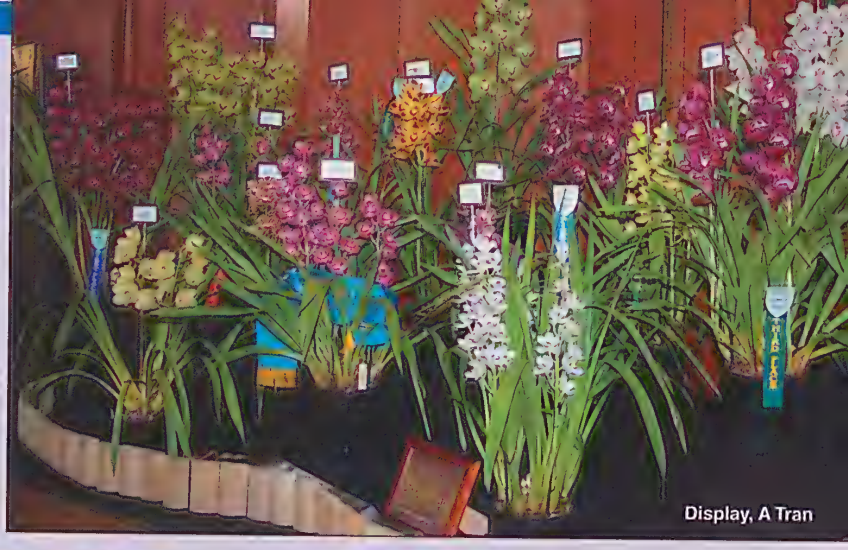
flower types, small standards and intermediates was especially impressive, with significant progress being evident in just the last few years. One which caught my eye and those of the judges was *Cym.* (Blazing Fury x Last Tango) shown by K. Moore, a very full shaped dark brown intermediate. Equally exciting were many of the new hybrids among the novelty classes across all sizes, from large flowers through to miniatures, in pelorics, spotted types and those with Australian species content. Cymbidiums such as (Winter Fire x *madidum*), Darch Little Giant 'Sour Lime', Darch Dots 'Cheetah' & Darch Dots 'Lost', and (Son of Freak x Red Beauty) all drew the judges eyes in their classes.



Display, A Tran

Cym. (Paradesia Bullseye x *devonianum*)', E. Kettle

- **Champion Plant in Show and Champion Large Flower** was a superbly grown example of *Cymbidium* Valley Splash 'Awesome' carrying 5 large strait inflorescences exhibited by Colin & Karen Gillespie.
- **Champion Cut Stem in Show, Champion Small Standard Cut Stem and Champion Cut Stem Seedling** went to Wayne Baylis with his *Cymbidium* Flaming Pepper 'Shiraz', a shapely deep red of great substance and form.
- **Champion Small Standard Plant** was Colin & Karen Gillespie's *Cymbidium* Khan Flame 'Rosewood Park'.
- **Champion Intermediate Plant** was *Cymbidium* Templestowe's Charm 'Mathew' AM/ACS owned and shown by Andy Tran, a shapely and floriferous mid pink, of full flower form.
- **Champion Miniature Plant,** *Cymbidium* Fairy Rouge 'Lavender Falls', owned by Vinny Dinh. This outstanding specimen also received a HCC/ACS and a Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Culture on the day.
- **Champion Specimen Plant** went to *Cymbidium* (Khan Flame x Valley Vapour) shown by David Wain.
- **Champion Novelty Plant,** *Cymbidium* Winter Fire 'Splash' shown by David Keanelly.
- **Champion Seedling Plant,** *Cymbidium* (Alexandra Flame x Flaming Vulcan), Colin & Karen Gillespie.
- **Champion Large Flower Cut Stem,** *Cymbidium* Red Nelly 'Devil' owned by Colin Grigg.
- **Champion Intermediate Cut Stem,** *Cymbidium* Akebono 'Dural', Elmore & Pam Leske.
- **Champion Miniature Cut Stem,** *Cymbidium* Sleeping Sharon, Elmore & Pam Leske.

Cym. Darch Little Giant 'Lime Sour', Ezi-Gro Orchids

Above: *Cym.* (Blazing Fury x Last Tango), K Moore

Below: COCSA Display

Above: Champion Display by a Club, COCWA

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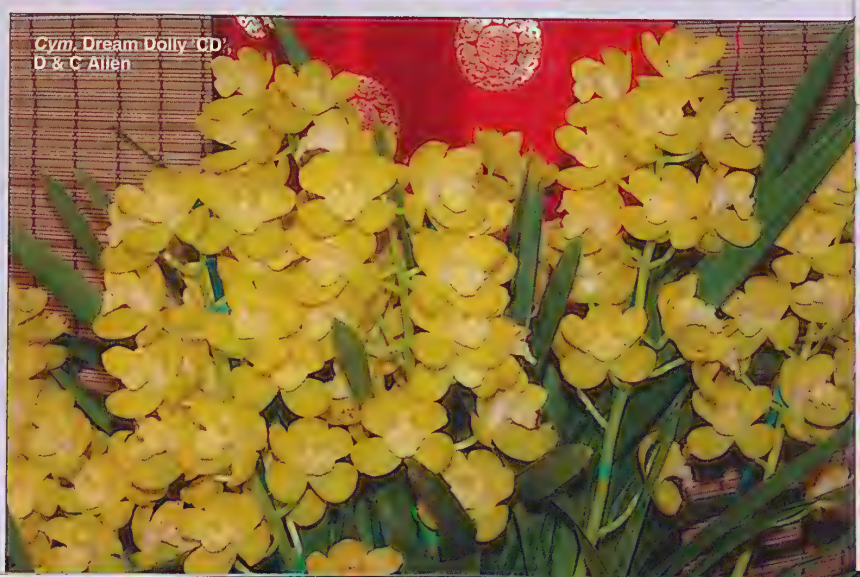
Champion Display, Kimberley Orchids

- **Champion Novelty Cut Stem,** *Cymbidium* (Son of Freak x Red Beauty), John & Deidre Oliver.
- **Champion Display, Theme/Artistic** was won by John McMillan & John Kenter.
- **Champion Display** was staged by Kimberley Orchids.
- **Best Display By A State Club (ACS Award)** went to Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia.
- **The Dean Roesler Memorial Trophy** *(For the Most Eye Catching Cymbidium, plant or cut stem)* was awarded to *Cymbidium* (Hazel Fay x Wallacia) 'Bengal' owned by Andy Tran.
- **The Fleurijn Orchids-Holland Award** *(Sponsored by the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria & The Australian Cymbidium Society)* went to the following Cymbidiums: 1st. (Alexandra Flame x Flaming Vulcan) C & K Gillespie. 2nd. (Conqueso x Ovation) A. Tran. 3rd. (Wyong Flame x Alexandra Flame) D. Wain.

In some ways the 2009 National Cymbidium Show was a learning experience for the organisers, The Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria. While the club had hosted a number of National Cymbidium Shows previously in Ararat, the move to a metropolitan venue and the addition of a separate commercial sales area, provided some new challenges and some important lessons. Despite the show being a new experience for COSV, the event was an excellent showcase of Cymbidium orchids and thanks should go to the many club members who worked so hard to make it all happen, the many exhibitors from the ACS member clubs across Australia, the show sponsors and commercial sellers, the judges and

Champion Theme Display, J McMillan & J Kentar



Cym. Dream Dolly 'CD', D & C Allen

Champion Cut Stem, *Cym.* Flaming Pepper 'Shiraz', W. Baylis

Above: Dean Roesler Trophy Winner, *Cym.* (Hazel Fay x Wallacia), A Tran

Left: *Cym.* Ned Kelly 'Cabernet', A Tran

Below: Ezi-Gro Orchids Display

associates, our New Zealand and American visiting judges, the *AOR* and everyone who helped out or promoted the show.

Congratulations to all those who had their Cymbidiums recognised, whether as major champions or in their colour classes. Congratulations also to the exhibitors for the outstanding and often inventive displays which are such an important aspect of National Cymbidium Shows, the work which goes into many of these displays is just staggering and they really add to the visual impact of the show.

COSV is already talking about their next opportunity to host a National Cymbidium Show in Melbourne in 2012! But in the meantime Western Australia has plans firmly in place for their first National Cymbidium Show in 2010, mark it down on your orchid calendar!

Rob Smith
Rosebud, Victoria
Email: aussieyms@internode.on.net

K Purcell Display

Cym. (Trinity Rah x Amber Wall), J Forrest

Cym. (Amesbury x Valley Zenith), T Poulton

Cym. Templestowe's Charm 'No3', D Wain

Cym. Albryant 'Super Star', K & C Gillespie

Cym. Kimberley Flame 'Latte', Kimberley Orchids

Above: *Cym.* Jim Oro 'Noe', K Purcell

Left: *Cym.* Ruby Valley 'Steven', T Poulton

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Above: *Cym.* Khan Flame 'Tuscany',
C & K Gillespie

Cym. One Tree Hill 'Soltice Gold', J McMillan

Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2009

Text by Carolyn Allen, photos by Ian Maher

Once again this year Cymbidium Orchid Club of Victoria members took out the major Champion Sashes and major cymbidium sashes at Victoria's major multi genera orchid show. For the first time the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria staged the Melbourne Orchid Spectacular (combining with the Victorian International Orchid Fair) at a new venue, the Springers Leisure Centre in Keysborough, Victoria. The show and plant sales areas were set up in a very large basketball stadium with fold out seating dividing the area in half. As usual for this show the weather was typical for Melbourne in mid August. In other words very predictable, being fine cold and windy, with rain!

- **Champion Orchid of the Show – Hobbyist**
  Cym Khan Flame 'Tuscany' exhibited by Colin and Karen Gillespie
- **Champion Cymbidium Hybrid – Large Flower – Hobbyist**
  Cym Khan Flame 'Tuscany' exhibited by Colin and Karen Gillespie
- **Champion Cymbidium Hybrid – Medium Flower – Hobbyist**
  Cym One Tree Hill exhibited by John McMillan
- **Champion Cymbidium Hybrid – Small Flower – Hobbyist**
  Cym Orkney 'Pink Heather' exhibited by Paul Latina
- **Champion Specimen Orchid of the Show (Hybrid or Species)**
  Cym Alexandra's Flame 'Pink Impression' exhibited by Colin and Karen Gillespie
- **Champion Seedling Shown First Time – Hobbyist**
  Cym Lunar Flame 'Cameo' x Blazing Fury 'Ruby' exhibited by Colin and Karen Gillespie. This plant received an AM at the August COSV meeting.
- **Champion Display by a Specialist Club** again went to the COSV display.
- **Champion Cymbidium in the Commercial Section** was *Cym* Paradisian Surprise from the Paradisia Orchid-Collectors Corner nursery. ■

Carolyn Allen
Langwarrin, Victoria

Left: *Cym.* Orkney 'Pink Heather', Paul Latina

Below: *Cym.* Paradisia Surprise, Paradisia Orchids

Above: *Cym.* Alexandra's Flame 'Pink Impression', C & K Gillespie

Above: *Cym.* (Luna Flame x Blazing Fury), C & K Gillespie

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Cymbidium lowianum var. *concolor*

Cymbidium Orchids for Beginners – in six easy lessons – part 6

Text and pictures by Graham Morris

I would like to start with an apology. I did not properly finish part 14 of my last lesson. In lesson 1, section 14 was to discuss **"Where to source new plants, varieties to grow, and traps to avoid"**, I did not discuss the last two parts.

14.b. Be sure that you purchase and grow, plants which you like, **and suit your expectations**. Do not be hasty in acquiring new varieties. Too many growers choose new varieties, which will disappoint when they eventually flower, often some years down the track. It is easy to be sucked in to growing new, prize winning, new releases.

Make sure you purchase the best available showbench plants, if you are growing to win prizes at your Orchid Club. If you just want lots of flowers, look at the best pot plant types available. If you want to cut your flowers & enjoy them, choose superior cut flower varieties. Some varieties will perform well in all arenas, but not all. Choose wisely.

On the showbench, if your new plant happens to be a mericlone, there will be many other growers, growing the same plant, all expecting to win a major prize when it flowers. You will need to grow it better than all those growers, and be lucky enough for it to be at its best on judging day. Unless you are a very good grower, expect to fail, more often than you succeed. Don't be too disappointed.

14.c. Avoid buying plants on impulse. Spend time researching, and talking to successful growers. Avoid believing everything you hear. There are lots of experts, who live in the past. The quality of our cymbidiums is improving greatly with every year. If you do not upgrade regularly, your collection will quickly be outdated. Unfortunately, there are also suppliers, who offer plants which have little chance of being better than the varieties, presently being grown. Many are produced from pirated tissue, which often produces inferior varieties. Some come from breeding programs, which are years behind the leading edge hybridisers. Be wary, and ask lots of questions. Seek out suppliers who you can trust.

15. The Internet

The internet is a fabulous source of information. If you are not able to use it, you are missing the opportunity to find almost any information you need to succeed. It is also, relatively simple to use, and is very forgiving of anyone, even if you make mistakes. Try to learn, or get someone who is internet competent to assist you. One could spend a lifetime on a computer, and look at just a small percentage of the information available. For example, I typed the word **"Cymbidium"**, into the search engine (Google) and got the following references:

Cymbidium Orchids
– 272,000 results
Cymbidium Orchid care
– 54,400 results
Cymbidium Orchid Nurseries
– 27,300 results
Cymbidium Orchids for sale
– 228,000 results
Cymbidium orchid plants
– 78,600 results
Cymbidium Orchids care of
– 52,200 results
Cymbidium Orchids Australia
– 28,000 results
Cymbidium Orchid pictures
– 94,000 results
Cymbidium Orchids wholesale
– 19,100 results
Cymbidium Orchid colours
– 38,900 results

If I looked at all these references, and

absorbed just a small percentage of the information available, I think I could confidently claim to be an expert in Cymbidiums. Obviously it is impossible to read more than a small percentage of this information. Additionally, it is getting even bigger, by the minute. With such a large amount of information available, it is necessary to make the search for information, more specific, to be of any use.

For example, one could type

Cymbidium Orchid Nurseries Australia

– 2600 results (down from 27,300) or,

Cymbidium Orchid Nurseries South Australia

– 768 results

The **Cymbidium Orchid pictures** section, with 94,000 results, must contain photos of interest to most serious orchid growers. Unfortunately you will need to battle through lots of irrelevant references which will not interest you (eg. paintings). Also when I did get into this section, it then told me that there were 240,000 results (previously shown as 94,000) – sorry I can't explain the discrepancy.

Many orchid nurseries have a web site. Some are very comprehensive, some are small and primitive. These can be a great source of good, relatively up to date information. A web site is just like a book, or catalogue.

Our site **www.valleyorchids.com.au** has the following sections.

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Suggestions to assist you to grow our treasures

Links
Connections to associated nurseries and clubs

Contact us
email details – how to contact us with an email

Many people report to us that they spend many hours on our site. There are many other cymbidium orchid nurseries, with similar setups. Search for them and look at what they have to offer. Many update their sites regularly, sometimes with special offers, only available over the internet. Be careful with overseas, or some interstate nurseries. Importing from overseas is quite difficult, and can be expensive. Some Australian States, have import restrictions, and require permits for plants entering those States. Some nurseries are accredited to send plants over state borders. It is relatively expensive for the nurseries to set up. Don't try to smuggle plants into prohibited states. The authorities are well equipped to intercept illegal shipments, and severe penalties can apply. Smuggling also tarnishes our industry, and makes it harder for the honest growers.

Cymbidium Valley Splash 'Awesome'

eBay, and a couple of similar sites, can be a great source of good and interesting plants. These are auctions, over the internet. To secure a plant, one needs to bid for it and then monitor the auction, till it closes, in case someone else outbids you. You may raise the bid if necessary. It is very easy to register as a seller, and offer plants for sale. Beware, there are many sellers, who are inexperienced, or have very ordinary or undersize plants for sale. There are many plants offered for sale on eBay, which are very in short supply elsewhere. Bargains and disappointments are many. The downside is, you may unwittingly be dealing with someone you do not know, or with an unproven sales record.

If there is a problem with the sale, it can be difficult to resolve. In summary, the Internet is huge, and expanding. It can be a huge advantage to be able to access information from it. Seriously consider getting access to it. It is relatively easy, sometimes a bit frightening, but can be a great medium to see what is available, and to purchase some very different plants, often not available commercially.

16. Ethics

The Webster Dictionary defines **ethics**, as "the study and philosophy of human conduct, with emphasis on the determination of right and wrong".

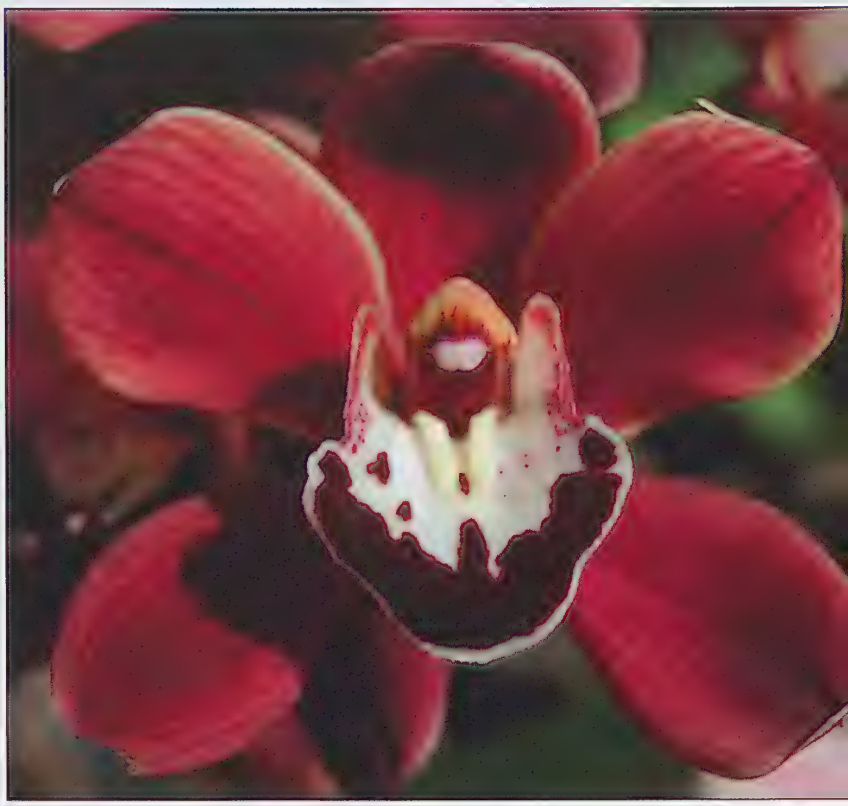
In the growing of Orchids, **what is right and wrong?**

I personally like to succeed, but make sure I am not doing the **wrong** thing for the industry. I would like to think that I put more into the industry, than I try to take out. I think that is **right**. It is important, that the whole industry is successful. We are very fortunate in Australia, that we have some of the best cymbidium orchids in the world. This has not come about by accident, but by hard work and perseverance, over a long time, by some fabulous hybridisers. Some of these hybridisers are rewarded, with sales of new varieties, world wide.

There are however, others, who do have not done the hard yards, but want to cash in on the success of the serious, hard working good hybridisers. They generally put little into the orchid industry, but expect to take whatever they want, with no regard for others who have worked hard. They undermine the success of the genuine, successful hybridisers.

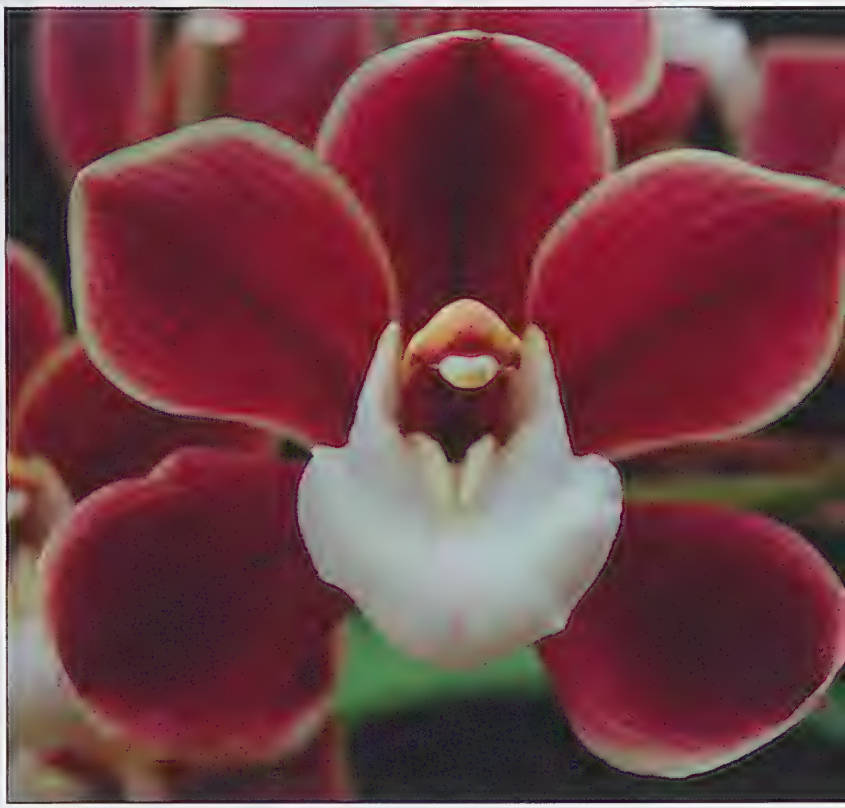
The pirating of tissue, in many circles, is regarded as acceptable, and even encouraged. I could understand it many years ago, when new varieties commanded a crazy, premium price (new release flasks were often $200 per flask of 25 plants, others older type flasks, $25 or $30). Plants produced by pirating of tissue, soon bought the price down to sensible levels. Nowadays, grossly inflated prices of new releases rarely occur, so why should these pirate laboratories, justify grabbing tissue from other nurseries, proliferating it, and offering it for sale. The answer, they have not done the hard work, to produce their own new varieties, It is easier to acquire the fruits of other hard working hybridisers, even if it is not good for that hybridiser, and the industry.

Nowadays, to protect their interests, hybridisers of many of the very best new varieties, release their plants only to trusted growers, who are legally bound, to not release it to other growers, who may in turn pirate them. Another way which the hybridiser protects their new varieties, is to delay the release, grow large numbers to large size, and charge a premium price, when eventually released. These practices, means that the general orchid growing fraternity, are deprived of the best plants. Pirating of tissue is wrong. If authorities and clubs could prevent, or at least discourage this practice, cymbidium orchid development would accelerate, and all would benefit.



Above: *Cym.* Red Pepper 'Paprika'

Below: *Cym.* Red Pepper 'Janice' (mericlone of 'Paprika')



Another very unethical practice, which is very **wrong**, is the practice of renaming a plant, so it appears that a hybridiser has a special exclusive plant with which to breed. Plants also have their name changed, so they can be recloned, and offered for sale under a new name. Some will claim that their new, renamed plant, is different (mutated), from the original. It is usually just an intentional, dishonest act, intended to deceive, and should probably be challenged in court, as misleading advertising. The use of DNA testing could now be used to prove if a plant has been renamed.

Above: *Cym.* Winter Fire 'Splash

Left: *Cym.* Winter Fire 'Frosty' (mutation of 'Splash')

I am regularly disappointed, when I see someone doing the wrong thing. In the cymbidium orchid industry (clubs are a part of the industry), there is plenty of scope for improvement, and by everyone working to do things right, we could be much better than we presently are. I am reminded by a conversation, which I had with a work supervisor, many years ago, when I was working as a Draftsman. I was approached to join the Institute of Draftsmen. When I asked, "What can the Institute do for me", the response by my supervisor was that I should consider "What I could do for the Institute – Just by joining, I would make the Institute better, and then the industry would be better for me". I joined and became positively active. In the cymbidium industry, if we all acted ethically (lots of rights and no wrongs), the industry would be a lot better than it is now.

The clubs could do a lot, and perhaps adopt a code of practice, and promote it seriously. We should also lobby the Authorities, to have plant variety protection made easy, affordable and to enforce it.

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17. The Future

The growing of cymbidium orchids has improved greatly over just a few years. Just look at the species orchids, and compare them with the good modern prize winner. It is amazing how much change has occurred in just 60 or 70 years. I am old enough to have seen the cymbidiums 40 or so years ago. Plants which were exciting in those days now are fourth rate. We would not seriously grow most of them now. In those days we had a very short flowering season, poor colour range, short flower spikes with not many flowers per spike, virtually no miniatures or danglers, and very poor production.

Even over the last 10 years we have seen huge changes. We are a long way from producing the perfect cymbidium. However, we will continue the improvement, probably at an even faster rate than in the past. The future is exciting, and the sky is the limit. The growing of lots of top quality seedlings from inspired and knowledgeable hybridisers, will keep the improvements coming. We should always remember that the cymbidium is fabulous, and is probably the most prestigious and recognisable flower in existence. We should be promoting it more seriously than we are at the present.

One hugely exciting development which is forthcoming is the heat tolerant strains of cymbidiums. If successful, it should open up cymbidium growing too many more areas, and make the northern part of Australia suitable for cymbidiums. It could lead to the formation of more specialist cymbidium clubs – great for all cymbidium growers.

In closing I would like to thank all those who have given feedback about these articles. In hindsight, I could have done better, having missed some topics, which should have been discussed. We are always very busy with our business, and I usually wrote each article, in a hurry, not much

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before each deadline. If I were to do it again, I would have written all 6 articles, before the first one was published, but on reflection, if I had done that, it would probably not have happened at all.

I would also like to comment on the recent National Show held in Melbourne. There were lots of fabulous flowers on display, including lots of new varieties, which will only get better as they mature. There were even more, new, perhaps better varieties not shown, but which I was fortunate enough to see privately, at various nurseries. Expect to see even better varieties in future. Disappointing was that we did not see flowers from New South Wales, who I am sure also had lots of great new varieties. I did hear criticism from some outside areas, expressing disappointment, that the old orchid *Cymbidium* Valley Splash 'Awesome' (registered 1991), was able to win the Grand Champion prize. One needed to be there to see just how well it was grown and presented. Congratulations Colin Gillespie. Be assured, some of the new varieties which were shown, will upstage 'Awesome', in the near future, when they mature and are grown to perfection. As always, we hear that others had better plants at home. It doesn't matter. History will show that 'Awesome' was 2009 Grand Champion. Hopefully we will see some of these other plants next time.

Addendum

I am always fascinated by the variation and surprise, experienced when a batch of new seedlings begins flowering. Below are two sets of photos showing just a few siblings of two separate matings. I have deliberately chosen to not name the parents used at this time. Try to guess the parents used. I suspect that not many will correctly name them. Answers in the next issue! ■

Graham Morris
Valley Orchids.
www.valleyorchids.com.au
McLaren Vale, South Australia

2010 National Cymbidium Show, Western Australia

Fleurijn Orchids-Holland National Cymbidium Show (7-8 August 2010) Venue: Cannington Exhibition Centre, Cannington, Perth. Western Australia

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia has a huge amount of information available on its website, **www.cymbidiumclubwa.com.au** including details of the show for exhibitors and visitors, accommodation information and details of places of interest which you may wish to visit while in WA, application forms for exhibitors and vendors and lots of other helpful information.

Show open to the public: Saturday 7th August 2010 from 9am to 5pm. Sunday 8th August 2010 from 9am to 4pm with the Awards Dinner: Saturday 7th August 2010 starting at 7pm.

The show secretary, Sallyanne Bushe-Jones can be contacted at 1105 Campersic Rd. Brigadoon, WA 6069, on 0438 966 203, or via email at **ollibush@bigpond.com**

This is a great opportunity for interstate clubs and cymbidium enthusiasts to "head to the west" for the show and perhaps to see some of the great things this state has to offer. Why not try day trips to the historic Swan Valley wine region, head south to the world famous Margaret river wine region, head inland for a day on a wild flower tour, or to The Pinnacles. Please contact Malcolm Davis; our club contact for tour information and links with other visitors at **macann@optusnet.com** or by phone on 0413 884 603.

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June 11-13 Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference & Show – Townsville Qld

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August 20-22 Melbourne International Orchid Spectacular (www.oscov.asn.au) & Victorian International Orchid Fair (www.orchidfair.com.au) – Springers, Keysborough Victoria

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Plant: Hills District Orchids, NSW.
Photo: David P. Banks.